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07th Expansion presents. Welcome to Rokkenjima.
"WHEN THEY CRY 3"

原作・監修 07th Expansion

竜騎士07

作画 夏海ケイ

3

Episode 1 Legend of the golden witch

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07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima.
"WHEN THEY CRY 3"

Episode 1.
Legend of the golden witch

原作・監修 竜騎士07 作画 夏海ケイ

SHE EXISTS.

BEATRICE-SAMA REALLY HATES IT WHEN PEOPLE DOUBT THAT.

BATTLER-SAMA.

BEATRICE-SAMA "EXISTS", YOU KNOW?

THE WITCH IS RIGHT THERE ...

THEY'RE SAYING THE SAME THING THAT MARIA WAS SAYING...

KUMASAMA-SAN... AND EVEN GENJI-SAN...

...DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND, BATTLER-SAMA?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVEN AT THIS MOMENT, SHE'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME?

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, OKAY?

ST- STOP IT...

RIGHT THIS MOMENT, BEATRICE-SAMA HAS JUST ARRIVED.

Chapter 11: The Invisible Witch

原作・監修／竜騎士07
作画／夏海ケイ

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JUST WHEN DID YOU...

KIHIHI HIHIHI HIHI

BATTLER, YOU CAN'T SEE BEATRICE?

... THAT STRANGE LAUGH AGAIN...

UGH...

BATTLER, YOU'RE THE TYPE WHOSE WAVELENGTH WASN'T COMPATIBLE FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN.

KIHI HIHI HIHI

SFX: KIHIHI HIHIHIHI

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BEATRICE, THEN I CAN TEACH YOU, OKAY?

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SEE HER... CAN'T MEET HER... CAN'T SPEAK WITH HER...

YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT BEATRICE HATES THE MOST.

THE LETTER FROM BEATRICE THAT I READ YESTERDAY WAS REAL.

WITH THEIR CONTRACT TOGETHER, GRANDFATHER AMASSED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WEALTH FOR THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.

SHE CAN USE ANY DEMON, SHE MASTERED ALCHEMY, SHE CAN CREATE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, AND SHE CAN CREATE VAST AMOUNTS OF GOLD.

BEATRICE IS A THOUSAND YEAR OLD WITCH.

KIHI HIHI HIHI

...WELL, YOU WERE BORN WITHOUT THE SIXTH SENSE, SO EVEN IF I TELL YOU TO BELIEVE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?

AH

WITCHES AND DEMONS... WHO DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THEM FROM?

RIGHT HERE AND NOW, BEATRICE

"EXISTS"

BEATRICE

MARIA

WHO GAVE YOU THAT LETTER YESTERDAY?

THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BATTLER.

ZZZ...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT IT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND? YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE HER, RIGHT? BECAUSE YOU CAN'T TRUST HER, RIGHT?

WHAT...?

EVERYONE'S... LOOKING AT ME...?

NO... THAT'S WRONG.....

THEY'RE LOOKING BEHIND ME...

THERE AIN'T ANYTHING, RIGHT?

HEHE

LOOK

ARE YOU SAYING SHE'S

RIGHT OVER THERE.....?

W-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING.....

ARE YOU SAYING SHE EXISTS?

THEY'RE LOOKING AT SOMETHING COILING AROUND ME.....

ALL MOVE SIMULTANE-OUSLY.

KANON-KUN AND THE OTHERS' GAZES

RIGHT, LEFT, UPPER-RIGHT, LEFT...

BUT... THEY'RE... NOT FOCUSING ON ME...

KIHI HIHI HIHI

BEATRICE IS THE GREAT GOLDEN WITCH.

BUT ONLY THOSE WITH THE COMPATIBLE WAVELENGTH CAN SEE HER OR SPEAK WITH HER. THAT'S REALLY SAD.

THAT'S WHY SHE REALLY HATES PEOPLE LIKE BATTLER, BORN WITHOUT ANY INKLING OF MAGICAL ABILITY, THAT REJECT HER EXISTENCE...!

YOU'RE FORTUNATE, AREN'T YOU, BATTLER?

THE SCORPION AMULET THAT I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY

AMULET...?

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT ON YOU, WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF CURSE BEATRICE WOULD OF CAST ON YOU BY NOW.

YOU'RE REALLY FORTUNATE. KIHIHIHIHI HIHI.

IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE AMULET, THEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY NOW. ?

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE AMULET, YOU'D HAVE BEEN MADE INTO A SACRIFICE BY NOW, IN THE STOREHOUSE WITH YOUR FACE CRUSHED, BATTLER.

SOMEONE PROBABLY SAVED YOU BY TAKING YOUR PLACE, EH?

THAT'S RIGHT!

HEY? YOU PROBABLY BELIEVE NOW, RIGHT? IN BEATRICE.

KIHHI HIHIHI

KIHIHIHIHIHI HIHI. BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU RECEIVED THE AMULET FROM MARIA! KIHIHIHIHIHI.

!

PU... HHAHHA HAHAHA HAHA!

IT'S USELESS! IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS, MARIA, OKAY?

I THOUGHT IT'D PROBABLY HURT YOU SO I KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT, BUT .

THE AMULET I RECEIVED FROM YOU... I WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT IT IN MY POCKET, BUT I ENDED UP DROPPING IT SOMEWHERE, OKAY?

THAT'S WHY THE FACT THAT I'M SAFE EVEN NOW AIN'T CAUSE OF THE AMULET!

I ONLY BELIEVE IN THAT WHICH I CAN SEE WITH MY OWN EYES!

THE SIXTH SENSE? WAVELENGTHS? MAGICAL ABILITY? SORRY, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN FAKE STUFF LIKE THAT AT ALL.

GENJI-SAN AND THE OTHERS AS WELL! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH GRANDFATHER PAID YOU GUYS, BUT IT'S FUTILE TO PERSUADE ME TO BELIEVE IN SUCH A STRANGE THING!

WHETHER OR NOT I BELIEVE

WILL ALWAYS! BE SOMETHING THAT I! CHOOSE ON MY OWN ACCORD...!!!

KANON-KUN, YOU AND THE OTHERS ARE FREE TO BELIEVE WHATEVER, BUT. .

BATTLER-SAMA...

.....KIHI HIHI HIHI

THEN ISN'T THAT FINE...?

AT ANY RATE, BEATRICE WILL EVENTUALLY BE VISIBLE EVEN TO HUMANS LIKE YOU, WHOSE WAVELENGTH ISN'T COMPATIBLE AT ALL.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT WITCHES?

EVEN IF YOU RUN, IT'S FUTILE.

EVEN IF YOU DENY HER, IT'S FUTILE.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE PROMISED WE'D SPEAK TO-GETHER AND PLAY TOGETHER.

THERE'S ABSO-LUTELY NO NEED TO DOUBT OR BELIEVE.

CAUSE...

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BEATRICE?!

SOON, BEATRICE WILL BE RESURRECTED.

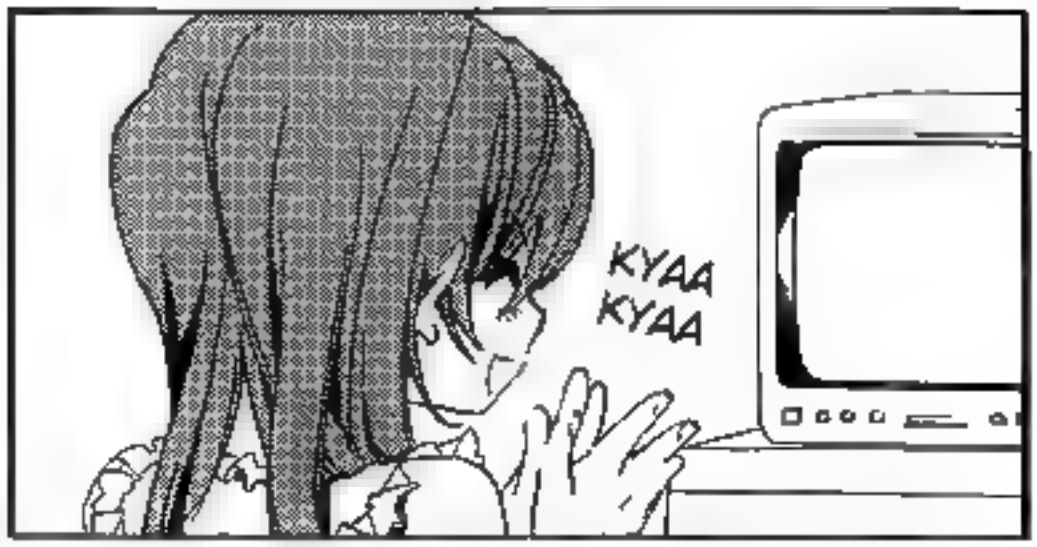
I'LL NEVER SUCCUMB TO SUCH AN ILLUSION!!!

AFTER LUNCH, MORE PEOPLE STARTED LEAVING THE GUESTROOM LIKE I HAD DONE.

IN THE END, BOTH THE ORDER FOR EVERYONE TO STAY IN THE GUESTROOM AND THE RULES THAT SAID "YOU CAN'T BE ALONE" AND "YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE GUESTHOUSE" WERE REPEALED...

IT SEEMS THAT NATSUHI-OBASAN WANTED TO ASSUME THAT EVERYONE WOULD STAY IN THE GUESTROOM, BUT

BY STAYING, THE ATMOSPHERE GREW STAGNANT, AND THERE WERE ALSO THOSE THAT WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.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KYAA

MARIA? AH, THIS SORT OF THING JUST HAPPENS SOMETIMES ...

WHO IN THE WORLD WAS THAT MARIA I SAW...?
ALL OF A SUDDEN, SHE STARTED LAUGHING IN A STRANGE WAY AND STARTED SPEAKING OF THE OCCULT SO LOQUACIOUSLY ...
EVEN IN THE KITCHEN.. I COULDN'T SENSE ANY PRESENCE OF A WITCH, BUT I FEEL LIKE I SAW OF GLIMPSE OF ONE IN MARIA ...

DOES MARIA HAVE A SPLIT PERSONALITY OR SOMETHING?
OR HAS SHE BEEN POSSESSED BY SOMETHING BECAUSE HER ABILITY TO SENSE THE SUPERNATURAL IS STRONG OR SOMETHING?

ISN'T IT JUST SOME DELUSION OR SOME KIND OF MAKE-BELIEVE GAME? IT'S QUITE COMMON DURING ONE'S GROWTH PERIOD...

HMMM... I DON'T THINK THAT'S CORRECT.

ACCORDING TO WHAT GEORGE-ANIKI AND JESSICA HAVE TOLD ME ..

SINCE THEY WANT TO BE RID OF THEIR CHILDISH SELVES, IT ISN'T COMMON FOR CHILDREN TO TAKE THE FORM OF THEIR IDEAL SELF BY ADOPTING A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY...

CHILDREN IN THEIR GROWTH PERIOD WILL START THINKING THAT THEY WANT TO EXCEL IN SOMETHING UNIQUE.

IT SEEMS THAT THE SUBJECT OF THEIR INTEREST IS USUALLY SOMETHING ATHLETIC, LIKE SPORTS, FOR BOYS AND SOMETHING SPIRITUAL, LIKE FORTUNE TELLING OR THE OCCULT, FOR GIRLS.

BECAUSE SUCH A CREATION IS A CONVENIENT DELUSION FOR CHILDREN THAT PLACE AN ADDED VALUE ON BEING ABLE TO EASILY SURPASS OTHERS AS A CHILD.

AMONG CHILDREN THAT LIKE THE OCCULT, THERE ARE ALSO CHILDREN THAT SAY THAT THEY'RE POSSESSED AND ACT CREEPILY.

LOOK, KIDS PROBABLY LIKE THINGS LIKE MEMORIES OF A PREVIOUS LIFE OR SEALED POWERS BEING RESURRECTED, RIGHT?

...
SO THAT'S WHY IT'LL APPEAR AS IF THEY HAD A SPLIT PERSONALITY, HUH...?

WE'RE DEFENDERS OF EARTH-!

BASE

HI HI HI ...

BATTLER-KUN, YOU DID THE SAME BACK THEN AND PROBABLY PRETENDED TO BE A HERO OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

BECAUSE SHE'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE ISOLATED IN CLASS...

IT'S JUST... ROSA-OBASAN REALLY HATES THAT ABOUT MARIA.

THE IDENTITY IS A PRECIOUS THING THAT ONE FORMS THEMSELVES, SO YOU SHOULD REALLY ONLY PLAY ALONG WITH IT ON A MODERATE SCALE, BUT...

WHENEVER MARIA STARTS TALKING ABOUT THE OCCULT, ROSA-OBASAN ALWAYS SLAPS HER IN THE FACE

IT SEEMS TO BE THE REASON WHY MARIA HOLDS BACK IN FRONT OF ROSA-OBASAN..

THERE'S A PERSONALITY SLEEPING IN MARIA OF AN IDEAL WITCH THAT SHE ADMIRES AND BLINDLY BELIEVES IN...

IN OTHER WORDS

BUT THAT'S NORMAL FOR GIRLS OF THAT AGE ...

YOU CAN'T JUST SIMPLY SAY THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE KITCHEN WAS MERELY THE DELUSION OF A GIRL OF THAT AGE.

IS IT REALLY JUST THAT.....?

THERE, IT WAS NOT ONLY MARIA, BUT EVEN GENJI-SAN, KANON-KUN, AND KUMASAWA-SAN, THAT AFFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF BEATRICE...

...REALLY?

UMMM.
I GUESS I
THINK THE SAME?

HOW DID THE STORY OF BEATRICE SPREAD IN THIS MANSION? WASN'T IT A STORY MADE BY ADULTS AS A THREAT?

...
HEY

BUT YOU KNOW, GRANDFATHER DECLARES THAT "BEATRICE EXISTS".

THE SERVANTS DON'T HAVE THE POSITION TO REPUDIATE THAT
...

AND OUR PARENTS WATCH THEIR MOUTHS IN PUBLIC IN ORDER TO AVOID AGGRAVATING GRANDFATHER

I DON'T REALLY KNOW THAT MUCH BUT AMONG THE SERVANTS IS A GHOST STORY THAT HAS BEEN SPREADING

LOOK, SHANNON SPOKE ABOUT IT ON THE BEACH YESTERDAY RIGHT?

"IF YOU DON'T SHOW RESPECT, THEN YOU'LL BE CURSED"...

WHICH MEANS THAT, TO THE SERVANTS, BEATRICE HAS JUST AS MUCH CREDIBILITY AS THE SOULS OF THEIR ANCESTORS' OR THE GREAT FOX GOD...

I DON'T FEEL SCARED, YOU KNOW?

IT SEEMS THAT IF YOU RESPECT HER, THEN NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.

OH RIGHT, SHANNON-CHAN WAS ALSO DEADLY SERIOUS WHEN SHE SAID THE SAME THINGS AS GENJI-SAN AND THE OTHERS...

...AH.

AND... ON THIS ISLAND, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE WORK OF MAN,

THEN IT'LL BE SEEN AS THE WORK OF BEATRICE.

BOOORING.

BASICALLY, YOU'D NORMALLY CALL IT A "CHILD'S PRANK", BUT ON THIS ISLAND, IT BECOMES "THE WORK OF BEATRICE".

I'LL TURN OVER THE CHESSBOARD THERE, OKAY?

EH ...?

THE CULPRIT FOLLOWS THAT RULE, AND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHING THAT THIS AFFAIR IS THE WITCH'S... THE WORK OF THE 19TH PERSON THAT IS NOT HUMAN.

ON THIS ISLAND, THERE'S A RULE THAT EVERYTHING THAT CAN'T BE DONE BY HUMANS BECOMES THE WORK OF BEATRICE.

I AIN'T PLEASED WITH THIS. I AIN'T PLEASED WITH THIS AT ALL.

...
YOU'RE NOT PLEASED... WITH WHAT?

...
PERFECT TIMING?

FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, LET'S SAY THAT THE INVISIBLE 19TH PERSON EXISTS AND HE WANTS TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN EXISTENCE.

IF IT WERE ME, WOULDN'T I DO IT AT A MORE PERFECT TIMING?

IT'S A SITUATION WHERE EVERYONE'S ALIBI WAS VAGUE AND YOU CAN PRETTY MUCH SUSPECT THAT IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB.

DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME, THE 18 HUMANS WERE EITHER AT A CONFERENCE, DOING LATE NIGHT DUTIES, OR SLEEPING IN THEIR ROOMS.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED SOMETIME BETWEEN LATE NIGHT AND EARLY DAWN.

IF THE 19TH PERSON REALLY WANTED TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN EXISTANCE...

WITH THIS, IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS.

THEN HE HAS TO CARRY OUT THE CRIME AT A TIME WHEN IT'S DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE HUMANS TO COMMIT A CRIME.

IT CAN'T BE THE WORK OF THE 19TH PERSON.

IF HE CAN'T DO THIS, THEN NATURALLY,

IF THE CRIME OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN ALL OF THE 18 HUMANS HAD VAGUE ALIBIS, THEN YOU CAN SUSPECT THE 18 HUMANS. THIS WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR THE 19TH PERSON WHO WANTS TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF.

SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE 19TH PERSON DIDN'T EXIST FROM THE VERY START.

DESPITE THAT, SINCE HE DIDN'T DO THAT,

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

NEVERTHELESS, WHY DID THE LETTER THAT MAKES ONE BELIEVE IN THE 19TH PERSON AND THE MAGIC SQUARE APPEAR?

...IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO SAY THAT THE PERSON THAT WANTS TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS IF BEATRICE EXISTS IS ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE, RIGHT...?

T-THAT LACKS TOO MUCH COMMON SENSE, BATTLER.

THE THEORY THAT A SUSPICIOUS PERSON IS LURKING OUTSIDE OF THE MANSION STILL HAS SOME CREDIBILITY TO IT

ACCORDING TO THAT LETTER FROM LAST NIGHT, THIS AFFAIR HAS ALREADY BEGUN... SOMEONE IS TRYING TO MAKE US RECOGNIZE BEATRICE'S EXISTENCE.

SO WITH THE LIMIT OF HAVING TURNED OVER THE CHESSBOARD, THIS IS MY DIAGNOSIS.

.....

BEATRICE'S LETTER...

IN IT, BEATRICE SAID THAT SHE WOULD CARRY OUT THE COLLECTION OF THE INTEREST.

DOO

SOMETHING UNPLEASANT?

IS SOMETHING WRONG, ANKI?

...AH.

YES...
I SUDDENTLY THOUGHT OF SOMETHING UNPLEASANT WHEN I WAS LISTENING TO YOUR STORY...

AND SHE SAID THAT THE INTEREST WAS EVERYTHING OF THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD.

EVERYTHING OF THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD...

YOU MUST BE KIDDING, ANIKI...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVERYTHING OF THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD CONSISTS OF ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT SHARE GRANDFATHER'S BLOOD...?!

YES...

AS INTEREST FOR THE GOLD THAT SHE LENT.

BEATRICE FIRST COLLECTED SIX PEOPLE FROM THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY, WHICH INCLUDES THE SERVANTS..

... WHICH MEANS ...

IF YOU DECIPHER THE LETTER THAT WAY, THEN IT MEANS THAT, THIS MURDERER IS BEATRICE CARRYING OUT OF THE COLLECTION OF HER RIGHTFUL INTEREST...

D...

DOES HE PLAN TO KILL ALL OF US .....?!

THIS AFFAIR WILL CONTINUE, HUH.

BECAUSE THE INTEREST THAT SHOULD BE COLLECTED STILL REMAINS ...!!!

BEATRICE'S TARGET IS THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD

1bottle:10月3日2月号につづく

UMINEKO NO NAKU KORO NI

EPISODE 1: LEGEND OF THE GOLDEN WITCH

BUT IT'S WEIRD! IF THAT WERE TRUE, THEN WHY ONLY SIX OF US?!

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL ALL OF US WHILE WE WERE ASLEEP...!

D-DOES HE PLAN TO KILL ALL OF US ...?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS AIM IS, BUT HE PROBABLY HAS NO PLAN TO KILL US ALL AT ONCE.

AH

FROM THIS ONWARD, THE COLLECTION OF THE INTEREST WILL BE CARRIED OUT, BUT IF EVEN JUST ONE PERSON FROM THE GROUP WERE TO SATISFY THE SPECIAL CONDITION, THEN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE PORTION THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN COLLECTED, WILL BE RETURNED

IT'S THE SPECIAL CONDITION IN THE LETTER.

IF THE ONE WHO SOLVES THE GOLDEN MYSTERY APPEARS, THEN THE RIGHT TO THE INTEREST WILL BE LOST.

WHEN THE ONE WHO UNEARTHS THE HIDDEN GOLD IN THE CONTRACT APPEARS, BEATRICE WILL HAVE TO RENOUNCE THESE RIGHTS FOR ETERNITY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE PERPETRATOR IS TELLING US TO TRY TO SOLVE GRANDFATHER'S INSCRIPTION...!

FURTHERMORE IF WE ACT CARELESSLY, HE PLANS TO STEADILY PROGRESS WITH THE COLLECTION OF THE INTEREST...!

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07th Expansion presents Welcome to Rokkenjima. "WHEN THEY CRY"

Episode 1: Legend of the golden witch

CHAPTER 12 -EVA VS NATSUHI-

MAKE EVERYTHING INSANE, INDULGE IN THE WINE OF DEMONS...

竜騎士07

作画 夏海ケイ

©竜騎士07／07th Expansion

最新コミックス第1巻

12月22日

全国書店にて発売!!

THE CULPRIT'S OBJECTIVE'S FOR US TA BE ABLE TO SOLVE TH' RIDDLE...?

SFX: NOD .

BATTLER, I RECKON YOUR HYPOTHESIS'S GOT A PRETTY GOOD LINE OF REASONIN'.

IF WE ALL THINK THAT WAY, WE CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND AN' ACCEPT THAT SUSPICIOUS LETTER.

HM ...

UUU-
BEATRICE
EXISTS-!
UUU-!

SFX: POUTS

SETTING ASIDE
WHO HANDED TH'
LETTER OVER
TO MARI...A...

RIDICULOUS
...!

...
AUNT
NATSUHI
..

THINGS LIKE
THE HIDDEN
GOLD DO
NOT EXIST.

WHAT MEANING
DOES US BEING
ABLE TO SOLVE
THE INSCRIPTION
HAVE?

I CAN AGREE WITH THE MOTIVE THAT THE CULPRIT, BLINDLY ACCEPTING THE EXISTENCE OF THE GOLD, IS SCHEMING EMBEZZLEMENT.

HOWEVER IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY DID HE KILL THE KEY PEOPLE OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY RIGHT FROM THE START?

.....

THAT'S TRUE~ ...

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY, IT ISN'T A PROFITABLE PLAN TO KILL THE ONES CLOSE TO FATHER~

IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE INSCRIPTION, WOULDN'T THE QUICKEST AND EASIEST WAY BE TO MAKE GRANDFATHER, THE PERSON WHO MADE IT HIMSELF CONFESS?

HOWEVER ...

THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE...

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY, IT ISN'T A PROFITABLE PLAN TO KILL THE ONES CLOSE TO FATHER~
IN ADDITION, FOLLOWING THAT LOGIC, WOULDN'T IT BE QUICKER TO THREATEN FATHER AND PRESS HIM?

.....

EVERYONE PROBABLY KNOWS THAT, RIGHT?

HOWEVER, KINZOU IS NOT SOMEONE THAT WOULD YIELD TO ORDINARY THREATS...

SURELY IT'S BECAUSE HE OVERCAME THAT THAT WE'RE PROSPEROUS TODAY.

FATHER IS SOMEONE THAT SHOULDERED THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY, WHICH CARRIES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF FORTUNE. UNTIL TODAY, HE'S BEEN EXPOSED TO VARIOUS ATTACKS AND THREATS...

THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE IS CERTAINLY ENGRAVED IN YOUR HEART.

Hiss...

JESSICA, YOUR SPEECH IS IMPROPER.

UU ...

I ALSO... CAN'T IMAGINE GRANDFATHER FOLLOWING ORDERS JUST CUZ HE WAS THREATENED...

...
IF THAT'S SO
...
THEN HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE ..?

.....

DON'T HESITATE JUST BECAUSE IT'S AN IDEA THAT LACKS ANY COMMON SENSE

...

EVEN A POORLY MADE GUN WILL HIT A TARGET A FEW TIMES NOW'S THE TIME TO JUST LOOK FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL DISCLOSE THIS INCIDENT

SO I'LL SHOOT! ONE AFTER ANOTHER!!

EH ..... ?!

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MESSAGE TO GRANDFATHER STATES THAT "IF YOU DON'T TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE GOLD, I'LL KILL YOUR RELATIVES ONE AFTER ANOTHER" ..

THE CULPRIT IS FORCING NOT ONLY US TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY, BUT GRANDFATHER AS WELL...

I SEE ...

AND WHAT IS "THE THREAT THAT THIS MURDERER IS CONFRONTING GRANDFATHER WITH"?

B-BUT GRANDFATHER, THE CRUCIAL ONE IN THIS, IS MISSING?!

.....

AND YET, WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIM... SO IN OTHER WORDS.....

IF THE CULPRIT ATTACKED GRANDFATHER, HE'D CERTAINLY INFLICT SOME DAMAGE ON HIM IN BAD TASTE AND LEAVE HIM EXPOSED SOMEWHERE

IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE SIX CORPSES...

I'LL EXPLAIN THAT AS WELL.

HASN'T GRANDFATHER BEEN CAPTURED AND IS BEING HELD SOMEWHERE?!

GIGGLE

ISN'T THAT AN INTERESTING STORY.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT FATHER HAS BEEN CONFINED SOMEWHERE AND IS BEING THREATENED TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE GOLD UNDER THE PRETEXT OF HIS RELATIVES' LIVES?

T-THAT'S... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE ..!

I CANNOT FATHOM WHAT'S SO INTERESTING ABOUT THAT .! WHAT IMPRUDENCE...!

FLAP FLAP

FLAP

...
IN THE FIRST PLACE
...
JUST WHEN DID FATHER GO MISSING?

...
PROBABLY ME.

.....
WHO WAS THE LAST ONE TA SEE FATHER?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I BORROWED THE KEY TO THE STUDY WITHOUT RETURNING IT, RIGHT?

GENJI, I'LL RETURN THIS.

THIS MORNING, WE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE MISSING HEADS WERE IN FATHER'S STUDY... I VISITED THE ROOM AND GREETED HIM THERE.

...

HEY, MR. GENJI.

SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT IF YOU SPEAK ABOUT IT NOW?

IN ANY CASE, I THINK THE POLICE WILL THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE FATHER'S ROOM AS WELL. NO MATTER WHAT'S HIDDEN, IT'LL ALL BE DISCLOSED IN THE END.

...
OF WHAT ARE YOU SPEAKING ABOUT?

IT'S SIMPLE. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT OF FATHER'S ROOM.

THERE'S ONLY ONE ENTRANCE TO FATHER'S ROOM, WHICH HAS AN AUTO-LOCK AND CANNOT BE OPENED WITHOUT A KEY.

RIGHT?

.....
YES.

AFTER THE ABSENCE OF FATHER, I'M THE ONE WITH THE HIGHEST RANKING IN THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY. HAVING UNDERSTOOD THAT, PLEASE ANSWER.

IN ORDER TO UNLOCK IT, ONE CAN ONLY USE THE BUTTON ON TOP OF THE DESK IN THE STUDY OR THE KEYS TO THE STUDY WHICH THE MASTER AND I EACH CARRY.

THE DOOR TO THE STUDY IS AN AUTO-LOCK THAT WILL NOT PERMIT ONE ACCESS TO THE ROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE MASTER

WHAT OTHER ENTRANCES AND EXITS ARE THERE TO THE STUDY?

ARE THERE SECRET HIDDEN DOORS OR ANYTHING OF THAT SORT?

ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT DOOR? HOW ABOUT THE WINDOW?

?.....

GEORGE, PLEASE BE QUIET FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

HOW ABOUT IT, MR. GENJI? IF THEY DO EXIST, WON'T YOU SAY THAT THEY DO?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

M-MOTHER ...?

KANON, WHO WAS FORGIVEN BY THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE?

AND MS. KUMASAWA, IF YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, WON'T YOU TELL ME?

YOU'RE FATHER'S CLOSEST AIDE. WHEN FATHER REMODELED THE STUDY, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BUILDING CONTRACTOR SUPERVISING..

I WON'T LET YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

DO HIDDEN DOORS EXIST? OR NOT?

WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HIDDEN DOORS AND SO FORTH ...?

...
AUNT EVA
...
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

...
SOMETHING OF THAT SORT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE MASTER'S STUDY.

IN ORDER TO ENTER, YOU CAN ONLY USE THE ENTRANCE.

AND DR. NANJO, WHO HAD A DEEP, FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH FATHER?

I-I ALSO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A THING...

I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT EITHER...

...
YES, THERE ARE NO HIDDEN DOORS OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

ARE YOU POSITIVE?

THAT'S ENOUGH!

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS ONLY ONE ENTRANCE TO FATHER'S STUDY!

WELL THEN, I'LL START MY STORY.

IT'S A VERY SIMPLE STORY.

?.....

THE LAST ONE TO SEE FATHER WAS SISTER NATSUHI, RIGHT? IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, IT WAS ABOUT A LITTLE BEFORE 9 O' CLOCK THIS MORNING.

TICK

TOCK

YOU WENT TO REPORT THAT AND TOGETHER WE CONFIRMED FATHER'S ABSENCE.

THE NEXT TIME YOU VISITED THE STUDY WAS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF BROTHER AND THE OTHERS' BODIES.

.....

WHAT ABOUT THAT?

I. . HAPPENED TO MEET YOU JUST AS YOU WERE LEAVING FATHER'S STUDY, RIGHT?

...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT I'VE CERTAINLY PICKED UP GARBAGE LIKE THAT

WHAT ABOUT IT?

BY THE WAY, SISTER, WHEN YOU ENTERED THE STUDY, DIDN'T YOU PICK UP SOME GARBAGE?

A FOLDED RECEIPT, TO BE PRECISE.

THIS WAS REALLY JUST SOMETHING I DID ON A WHIM, OKAY?

I'M NOT CONCLUDING THAT THIS IS SOMETHING I FORESAW OR THAT I CAUGHT YOU IN A TRAP OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT, OKAY?

!

MOTHER. JUST WHAT ARE YOU...

?!

...
FATHER
...?

ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT RECEIPT... THIS MORNING, YOU CONFIRMED THAT FATHER WAS IN HIS ROOM AND MET ME THERE, RIGHT?

AT THAT TIME, I INSERTED IT IN THE DOOR TO THE STUDY.

AFTER THAT, THE RECEIPT WAS INSERTED INTO THE DOOR OF THE STUDY THE WHOLE TIME. WHEN AUNT NATSUHI AND THE OTHERS VISITED THE STUDY ONCE MORE, IT FELL FROM THE DOOR AND ONTO THE FLOOR

...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

...

.....?

W-WAIT A MINUTE, AUNT EVA!

THE INSERTED RECEIPT WAS DISCOVERED! THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT GRANDFATHER REALIZED IT WHEN HE LEFT THE ROOM, THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING, AND REINSERTED IT ONCE MORE

THAT'S RIGHT... I WONDER HOW FATHER WENT OUTSIDE WITHOUT USING THE DOOR?

SFX. REALIZATION

IN OTHER WORDS, UNTIL AUNT NATSUHI PICKED UP THAT RECEIPT, NO ONE HAS OPENED THE DOOR...?

I-I CANNOT FATHOM WHY YOU DID SUCH A CHILDISH TRICK!!

PERHAPS YOU WERE THE ONE THAT PLAYED A TRICK ON THE DOOR TO MY ROOM !!!

I CONFIRMED IT WHILE SISTER NATSUHI WAS TAKING OUT THE KEY... WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, THE LOCATION OF THE RECEIPT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHERE I HAD INSERTED IT...!

OF COURSE, I FOLDED THE RECEIPT INTO A SMALL SIZE SO THAT IT WOULDN'T BE DISCOVERED. AND YET, EVEN IF GRANDFATHER REALIZED IT, COULD HE HAVE REINSERTED IT INTO THE EXACT SAME PLACE AS BEFORE?

WASN'T THAT ALSO YOUR DOING, MRS. EVA?!!!

USING THE SAME RED PAINT AS THE SCRIB-BLES ON THE SHUTTER, YOU LEFT SOME DISGUSTING MARKS ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE DOOR...!

WHA...

...RED PAINT ON YOUR DOOR...?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

WHAT I DID PERTAINS TO FATHER'S ROOM, YOU KNOW~?

WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING UNTIL NOW?!!

I APOLOGIZE. BECAUSE SUCH FRIGHTENING THINGS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING CONTINUOUSLY, I HAD FORGOTTEN UP UNTIL NOW...

AROUND 9 O' CLOCK, NATSUHI AND EVA CONFIRMED KINZOU'S ABSENCE.

AROUND 8 O' CLOCK, NATSUHI CONFIRMED THAT KINZOU WAS IN HIS ROOM.

OKAY?

THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM WHEN YOU CONFIRMED THAT FATHER WAS IN HIS ROOM, UP UNTIL WHEN YOU AND I BOTH CONFIRMED FATHER'S ABSENCE, THAT DOOR HASN'T BEEN OPENED ONCE.

AND THERE ARE NO OTHER ENTRANCES OR EXITS.

*DURING THIS PERIOD, THE DOOR WAS SEALED DUE TO THE RECEIPT
=
HUMANS CANNOT GO IN OR OUT

WON'T YOU TELL US, SISTER NATSUHI? HOW DID FATHER LEAVE THE ROOM WITHOUT USING THE DOOR~?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...! I'M THE ONE THAT WANTS TO KNOW!!

OTHER THAN MRS. NATSUHI, WHO ELSE CONFIRMED THAT FATHER WAS IN HIS ROOM?

SO TH' LAST TIME THERE WERE A WHOLE LOTTA HUMAN EYEWITNESSES WAS LAST NIGHT.....

LAST NIGHT, I PLAYED CHESS WITH KINZOU, BUT THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE MET... WE WERE TOGETHER STRAIGHT UNTIL DINNER..

I'VE NO DOUBT THAT UP UNTIL THIS POINT, FATHER WAS IN HIS ROOM.

AFTER THAT, SHANNON, KANON, AND I TOOK CARE OF KINZOU'S DINNER.

MRS. NATUSHI, IN THAT STORY WHERE YOU SAID YOU MET FATHER THIS MORNING...

DON'TCHA THINK THERE'S A CONTRA-DICTION ...?!!

NEVERTHELESS, MRS. NATSUHI...! WEREN'T TH' WINDOW AN' THE DOOR OF TH' STUDY FROM WHICH FATHER WAS ABSENT BOTH CLOSED?

SFX: GETS UP SUDDENLY

JESSICA! I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU TO PLEASE CORRECT YOUR SPEECH!!

AS IF SHE WOULD TELL A LIE!! MOTHER'S FRICKIN' INNOCENT!!

SO... FATHER AND MOTHER...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WHAT AUNT NATSUHI SAID ABOUT MEETING GRANDFATHER THIS MORNING WAS A LIE?

QUIT PLAYING DUMB AND ANSWER, SISTER NATSUHI~

FATHER'S SUPPOSED TO BE INSIDE THE CLOSED ROOM OF THE STUDY, BUT WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR OFF TO~?

THE ONLY ONE PRETENDING TO HAVE SEEN FATHER SINCE THIS MORNING IS YOU, SISTER NATSUHI.

WHAT THE HECK...!

AND THAT WAS SEEN THROUGH BY AUNT EVA'S WHIM...?

AUNT NATSUKI LIED AS IF GRANDFATHER WAS ACTUALLY IN HIS ROOM THIS MORNING?

REASON...? IF YOU MEAN THE MERIT IN LYING ABOUT FATHER BEING IN HIS ROOM, YOU CAN'T SAY THERE'S NONE, RIGHT~?

IT'S A TRICK IN WHICH ONE LIES ABOUT THE TIME OF DEATH AND FAKES ONE'S OWN ALIBI~

I DON'T FRICKIN' UNDERSTAND! WHY THE HECK WOULD MOTHER HAVE TO LIE! THERE AIN'T NO FRICKIN' REASON, RIGHT?!!

TIME OF CRIME

FAKE ESTIMATED TIME OF CRIME

CULPRIT HAS NO ALIBI

CULPRIT HAS AN ALIBI

DON'T THEY HAVE THIS IN MYSTERY NOVELS FROM TIME TO TIME?

A TRICK IN WHICH ONE COVERS UP THE VICTIM'S TIME OF DEATH AND DURING THAT PERIOD, CREATES AN ALIBI THAT THEY WERE WITH EVERYONE ELSE~

WHAT?!

FATHER HASN'T BEEN FOUND YET, BUT... IT'S NATURAL TO THINK THAT FATHER HAS ALREADY BEEN KILLED, RIGHT?

.....

UPON FINDING THAT BODY, IF SHE CAN FAKE THE TIME OF DEATH WELL ENOUGH, THEN SISTER NATSUHI CAN CREATE AN ALIBI.

THAT'S RIGHT! IF THE POLICE PERFORM AN AUTOPSY, WOULDN'T THE TIME OF DEATH BE REVEALED RIGHT OFF THE BAT?! THAT SORT OF TRICK AIN'T USED IN JAPAN IN THIS TIME AND AGE!!

RIDICULOUS! YOUR MIND HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY LEISURE NOVELS! WHAT AN IMPRUDENT IDEA!

FURTHERMORE THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF SUCH TROUBLING THINGS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW

AUTOPSY RESULTS ARE APPROXIMATE FIGURES THAT HAVE A MEASUREMENT ERROR OF A FEW HOURS, YOU KNOW~?

IF IT'S THE TRICK OF FALSIFYING AN ALIBI AS EVIDENCE. IT'S FEASIBLE ENOUGH... PROBABLY

PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY IS DIFFICULT WORK THAT REQUIRES POLICEMEN AND INTUITION. THE CHANCE OF A MISDIAGNOSIS IS ALWAYS HIGH

MRS NATSUH

SINCE IT'S SUSPICION OF SOMEONE IN OUR GROUP, WE JUST WANT TA SHOW THAT YOU'RE INNOCENT...!

IT'S NOT LIKE WE WANT TA DOUBT YOU, OKAY?

SINCE YOU MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY FROM THE OUTSIDE YOU DO NOT CARRY THE QUALIFICATION TO WEAR THE USHIROMIYA SYMBOL, THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE

HOWEVER, THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE IS CERTAINLY ENGRAVED IN YOUR HEART.

WHAT INNOCENCE ARE YOU SAYING I HAVE TO PROVE...?!!

.....

THIS MORNING, I CERTAINLY DID MEET FATHER !!!

AND HE REMARKED THAT THE ONE-WINGED EAGLE WAS ENGRAVED IN MY HEART ...

ARE YOU TRYING TO DENY THOSE WORDS?!!!

...
MOTHER
...

THAT ALONE IS ABSOLUTELY ...

DENYING EVEN THE WORDS THAT FATHER TOLD ME IS ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVEABLE !!!

...OR MAYBE FATHER'S CORPSE WON'T APPEAR?

DURING THAT TIME, YOU WOULD BE THE HEAD'S TREASURER, RIGHT?

IN A NORMAL DISAPPEARANCE CASE, IT TAKES SEVEN YEARS FOR SOMEONE TO BE PRE-SUMED DEAD ..

KEEPING FATHER, WHO HAS A LITTLE MORE TIME LEFT TO LIVE, 'ALIVE' FOR SEVEN YEARS MORE YEARS AND MONOPOLIZING THAT FORTUNE IS QUITE A CLEVER THING TO DO, ISN'T IT!!!

...IN...

HE EXCUSABLE!

EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT CARRY THE QUALIFICATION TO WEAR THE ONE-WING, IT'S ENGRAVED IN MY HEART FOR SURE!

I AM NATSUHI USHIRO-MIYA !!!

HOW DARE YOU MAKE SUCH A RECKLESS REMARK TOWARDS ME, THE ONE PERFORMING HER DUTY AS THE WIFE OF THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HEAD!!!

TRY TO FALSIFY THE TRUTH WITH VIOLENCE !!!

WHAAAT? IF YOU WANT TO SHOOT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHOOT?!

GRR ...

ガチ..

THAT'S RIGHT, MOTHER!

MADAM, SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, PLEASE CALM YOURSELF ...

!

AFTER ALL, AREN'T YOU JUST DES-PERATE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T THINK OF AN EXCUSE ?!

WHY'RE YOU IN SUCH A FRENZY ...?

CALM DOWN... CERTAINLY, IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU SWEAR THAT FATHER WAS IN THE ROOM, RIGHT?

T-THAT'S ALSO TRUE. MRS. NATSUHI DIDN'T LIE... ISN'T THAT ALONE CORRECT...?

YOU DIDN'T LIE OR ANYTHING, MOTHER!

SO YOU HAVE TO IGNORE THIS KIND OF THING !!!

.....

IF YOU DON'T, THEN IT'LL BECOME THAT ... YOU TOLD A LIE AFTER ALL, RIGHT~?

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN. HOW DID FATHER DISAPPEAR FROM HIS ROOM?

IS THAT SO?

I CAN'T GIVE AN EXPLANATION FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT'S UNNE-CESSARY !!!

JUST HOW FAR WILL YOU TROUBLE ME...

IF YOU CAN GIVE AN EXPLANATION RIGHT HERE, THEN I'M FINE WITH APOLOGIZING FOR SUSPECTING YOU.

THE ANSWER TO THE PUZZLE OF HOW FATHER LEFT THE ROOM IN SPITE OF THIS...?

I'LL BELIEVE THAT FATHER WAS IN HIS ROOM THIS MORNING, JUST AS YOU'VE SAID. AND AFTER THAT, UNTIL THE TIME YOU WENT TO CHECK THE ROOM AGAIN, THE DOOR HASN'T BEEN USED.

THEN SHALL I EXPLAIN FOR YOU ?

THE WINDOW.

SISTER NATSUHI, YOU PUSHED FATHER OUT OF THE WINDOW OF THE THIRD FLOOR STUDY AND INTO THE COURTYARDDD !!!!

AFTER THAT, SISTER NATSUHI HID THE CORPSE OF FATHER, WHO DIED BY FALLING INTO THE COURTYARD, SOMEWHERE WHEN SHE LEFT TO "CHECK THAT THE MANSION WAS LOCKED TIGHT"!!!

DURING THAT TIME, YOU WERE PROBABLY WORKING ON FAKING THE TIME OF DEATH, RIGHT?!!

...
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THIS KIND OF THING, BUT ...

MRS. NATSUHI, SINCE YESTERDAY, THERE'VE BEEN TOO MANY PERIODS OF TIME WHICH YOU HAVE NO ALIBI FO'...!

IF WE LUMP TOGETHER BOTH TH' INCIDENT WITH BROTHER KRAUSS AN' THE OTHERS AND TH' INCIDENT LAST NIGHT WITH BEATRICE, TH' POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS IS UNUSUALLY HIGH ...!

I ASK YOU, MRS. NATSUHI! SOMEHOW PROVE YOUR OWN INNOCENCE!

OTHERWISE, I'LL HAVE TA SUSPECT YOU...

.....!

WHY DO I...!

WHY DOES NATSUHI USHIROMIYA HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS KIND OF HUMILIATION?!!!

YOOO

THE INSERTION OF TWO CHAPTERS OF THE HIGHLY-POPULAR SERIES! CONTINUE ON TO THE NEXT PAGE!

HER PRIDE HAS BEEN DAMAGED... NATSUHI'S ANGER REACHES A PEAK.

IHIHIHI

I THINK YOU'VE HAD YOUR SAY, HUH.

IT'S USELESS ABSOLUTELY USELESS, RIGHT? EVA-OBASAN.

CHAPTER 13: BATTLER VS. EVA

BATTLER.

WHAT'S USELESS BATTLER-KUN?

THAT CHECKMATE BLUFF YOU LIKE TO USE!

I'D GIVE IT A 65! DID YOU EVEN DISCOVER ANYTHING IN REMAINING BEHIND? IHIHI!

うみねこのなく頃に~Episode1:Legend of the golden witch~

...ALRIGHT, THE RECEIPT SEALED THE DOOR, SO I WONDER, WHAT'S THE CAUSE OF FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE? IT ONLY LEADS TO MY THEORY!

...HOH

AND IT IS IF THERE'S NO OTHER THEORY AS TO GRANDFATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE.

SAYING NATSUHI-OBASAN'S GUILTY WOULD CUT IT.

....HOWEVER

EVA-OBASAN'S THEORY IS CERTAINLY INTERESTING.

SINCE THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT NATSUHI-OBA-SAN IS INNOCENT, WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE SHE'S NOT INNOCENT!

BATTLER..!

WHY'S THAT?

FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY NATSUHI-NEESAN, ITS IMPOSSIBLE OTHERWISE, RIGHT? HASN'T MY RECEIPT PROVEN THAT?

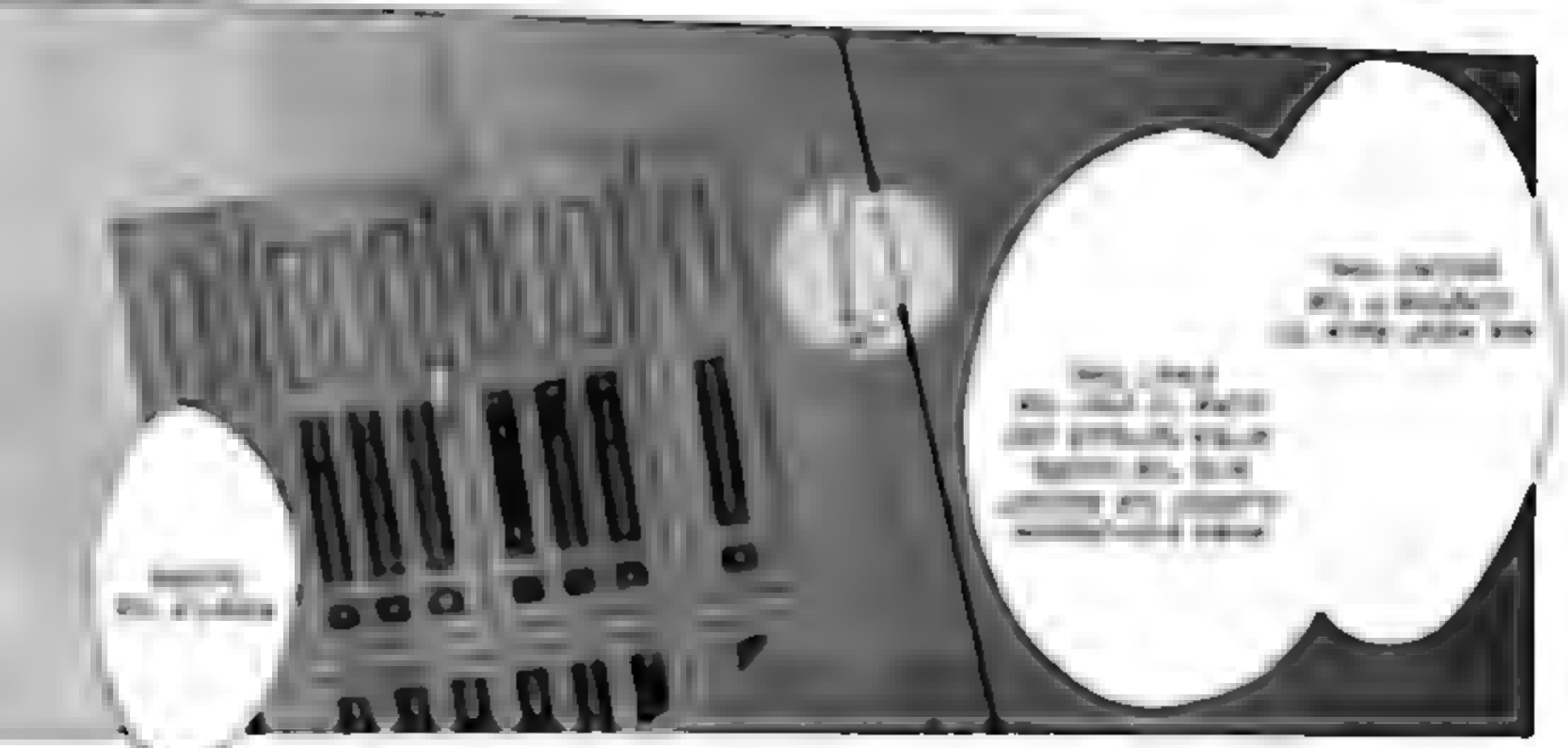
NATSUHI-NEESAN IS INNOCENT?

OK, LET'S "TURN THE CHESSBOARD OVER" SHALL WE?

THAT'S WHY YOU ONLY GET 65%, EVA-OBASAN.

I THINK IT SHOULD BE "HOW DID GRANDFATHER ESCAPE FROM THE INSIDE"!

IT'S NOT "HOW COULD SOMEONE CAUSE GRANDFATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE OUTSIDE"



THEREFORE, THE WINDOW COULD NOT HAVE BEEN USED.

YOU CAN'T LOCK THE WINDOW FROM THE OUTSIDE EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET OUT.

AT THAT TIME THE STUDY WAS A CLOSED ROOM! THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO ADMIT IT!

HOW COULD FATHER ESCAPE FROM A CLOSED ROOM? SURELY YOU AREN'T SAYING HE USED BLACK MAGIC TO MOVE...?

IS THAT SO?

HOWEVER, GRANDFATHER IS MISSING FROM THE STUDY!

NATURALLY

THIS IS THE HUMAN WORLD! THINGS LIKE WITCHES AND MAGIC DON'T EXIST!

THE RECEIPT NEVER ACTUALLY SEALED THE DOOR, IT'S POSSIBLE TO ESCAPE...!

THE STUDY WAS NEVER A CLOSED ROOM TO BEGIN WITH...!

EH...

GRANDFATHER'S STUDY SN'T AN ORDINARY STUDY RIGHT?

GENJI SAID THERE ARE A BATHROOM, KITCHEN AND BEDROOM IN THERE, RIGHT!?

FOR INSTANCE WHEN THE OBASAN'S VISITED, WHAT WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM FROM HIDING UNDER THE BED!?

I TAKE IT EVA-OBASAN DIDN'T INVESTIGATE THIS?

UGH...!

AT THAT TIME THE OBA-SAN'S THOUGHT HE HAD DISAPPEARED AND RETURNED DOWNSTAIRS... THEN, AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO RECEIPT!

NAMELY, GRANDFATHER CAN ESCAPE FROM THE STUDY WHILE STILL ALLOWING IT TO BE A CLOSED ROOM WHEN THE OBASAN'S PASSED THROUGH IT...!!!

...YEAH, IT IS PRETTY STRANGE, HUH.

WH-...

THAT'S WHY THERE'S A POSSIBLITY THAT NATSUHI-OBASAN IS BEING FALSELY ACCUSED

WHAT IS THIS!? WHY WOULD FATHER DO SOMETHING STRANGE LIKE THAT AND LEAVE THE STUDY!?

THAT'S THE EXTENT OF ABSURDITY!!

IN TERMS OF CHESS, EVA-OBASAN'S RECEIPT BECAME A CHECK

HOWEVER, THIS ISN'T CHECKMATE!

I'M THE MOST ANCIENT MY OPINION SHOULD BE THE LAW!

USE SOME FORESIGHT IF YOU'RE GOING TO ACCUSE NATSUHI-OBASAN! YOU STILL HAVEN'T PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE FOR YOUR CONCLUSION!

IF YOU HAVE ANY, EVEN THAT WILL DO FOR USHIROMIYA BATTLER!

THE CHESSBOARD WON'T BE TURNED OVER ONE TIME WITH AN ANSWER LIKE THAT, RIGHT!!!

EH? MAYBE ALL OF GRANDFATHER'S INHERITANCE, EVA-OBASAN !!?

OF COURSE YOU HAVE A MOTIVE, MAYBE YOU COULD EXPLAIN IT!!?

IT ALL DEPENDS ON EVA-OBASAN'S ARGUMENT!!

WASN'T IT YOU AND HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN WHO KILLED GRANDFATHER AND THE SIX OTHERS THEN RETURNED TO THE GUESTHOUSE!? WHY DON'T YOU OFFER AN EXPLANATION IN FRONT OF EVERYONE HERE...!!

.....UGH!!

IF YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T KILL THEM, TRY TO PROVE IT!!

TH-THAT'S RIGHT! IF IT'S SUSPICIOUS THAT MOM WAS THE LAST PERSON TO SEE GRANDFATHER,

EVA-OBASAN WAS THE FINAL WITNESS OF DAD AND THE OTHERS!

ALL OF US ARE EQUALLY SUSPICIOUS...!

AS FOR THE MATTER OF THE RECEPT THERE'S NO REASON TO BLAME SOLELY NATSUMI-OBASAN AS A CRIMINAL!

ALSO THINK MOTHER'S REASONING WAS OVERSTEPPING HER BOUNDS.

------ !!!

THAT WAS ALREADY EXPLAINED EVA-OBASAN!!!

HOW COULD FATHER THROW AWAY HIS PRIDE AND HIDE UNDER A BED!? HOW DO YOU INTEND TO EXPLAIN THIS FOOLISH ACT!?

WHO WOULD KILL SIX PEOPLE AND HOW!? IF YOU SAY YOU AREN'T RELATED TO IT, TRY TO SHOW SOME EVIDENCE!!

COUGH

COUGH
COUGH

COUGH!!

OJOU-
SAMA...!

COUGH

COUGH
COUGH

JESSICA!?

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
GASP
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
GASP
GASP

IT SEEMS THAT JESSICA CONTRACTED A CHRONIC ASTHMA...

IT'S AN ASTHMA ATTACK!

IT'S COME UP MOSTLY IN THE LAST COUPLE YEARS.

ARE YOU OKAY JESSICA-CHAN?

JESSICA!? WHAT'S WRONG, JESSICA?

HOWEVER... IT'S WORSE NOW THAN EVER.

JESSICA-SAN, USE YOUR MEDICATION, QUICKLY...

.....

STEADY, JESSICA...!

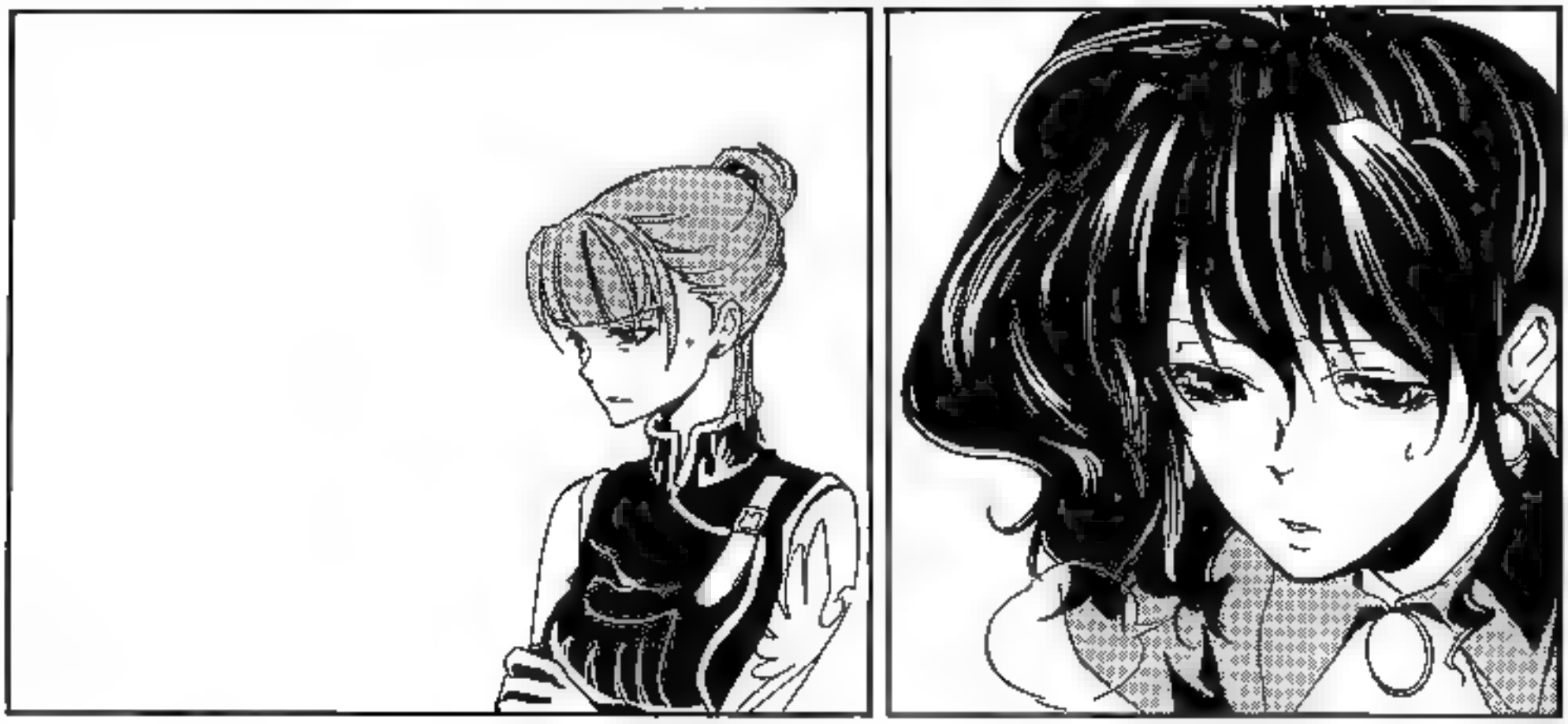
N...

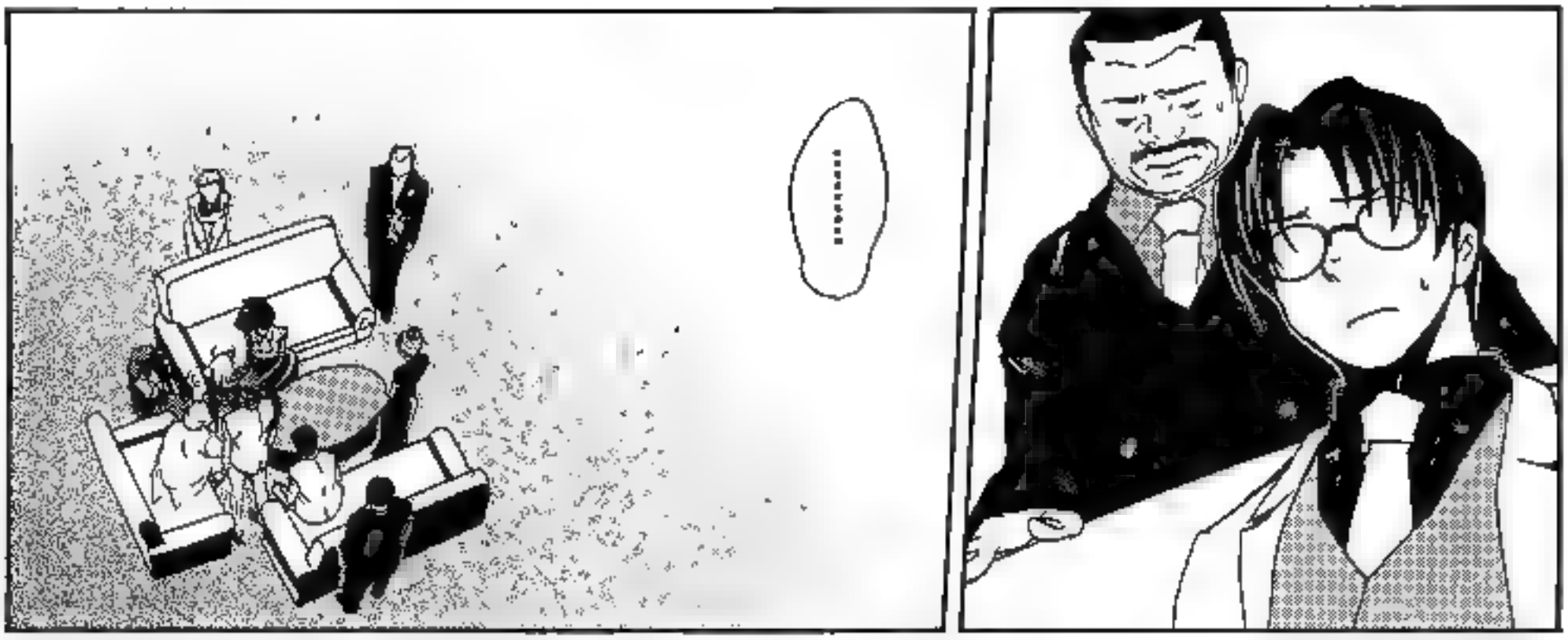
OJOU-SAMA. YOUR INHALER..

...THAT WAS PRETTY SERIOUS... NEVER MIND IT, IT'S OVER...

...HOW DO YOU FEEL, JESSICA...?

うみねこのなく頃に~Episode1:Legend of the golden witch~





THE TELEPHONE IS USUALLY USED FOR CONFIRMATION, HOWEVER BECAUSE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO USE IT

I'LL BE SURE TO INFORM THE GUESTS IF IT COMES FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

IT MAY BE AT 9 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, PROBABLY..

...NATSUHI-OBASA, WHEN DOES THE BOAT COME TO PICK US UP TOMORROW?

WHEN THE BOAT COMES, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE POLICE WITH THE RADIO.

IF THAT HAPPENS, THE POLICE WILL BE THE ONES TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY AND ARREST THE CRIMINAL.

US SEARCHING FOR THE CRIMINAL AND HOLES IN EACH OTHER'S ALIBIS IS MEANINGLESS NOW...

FOR THE PAIN CAUSED TO PEOPLE DEAR TO US?

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW IT TO MAKE THEM PAY

BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT TOO BATTLER-KUN? ABOUT THE CRIMINAL

...BUT,

I DON'T WANT TO LET THE BASTARD WHO DID ALL OF THIS TO US BE AND DO AS HE PLEASES, NOT EVEN FOR A DAY MORE...!

I WON'T DENY IT...

I SAID IT EARLIER, THOUGH...

THAT EVA-OBA-SAN IS THE BEST AUNT, ALWAYS HAVING FUN, BEING PLAYFUL ...

NATSUHI-OBA-SAN IS A LONELY PERSON BUT SHE HAS HER PRIDE AND IS A COOL PERSON.

HIDEYOSHI-OJI-SAN TOO. HE'S A WONDERFUL UNCLE AND AFFECTIONATE TO THE FAMILY

GEORGE ANIKI IS, OBVIOUSLY, MY COUSIN, A COUSIN I RESPECT.

JESSICA ACTS THOUGH BUT, DEEPS INSIDE, SHE HAS A TENDER HEART

AND GENJI-SAN AND DOCTOR NANJO, THEY COULD STICK AROUND WITH THAT MOODY GRANDFATHER OF OURS FOR SO MANY YEARS,

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ARE BAD PEOPLE.

MARIA IS MY CUTE PROTÉGÉE.

AS FOR KANON-KUN,

I'VE JUST MET WITH HIM, BUT I'VE SEEN HIM SUPPORTING JESSICA MANY TIMES WHEN SHE SEEMED TO BE IN PAIN.

KUMASAWA-SAN ALWAYS CALMS US DOWN, SINCE LONG AGO.

I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT, IN FACT, HE JUST WENT OUT FOR A WALK, ON A WHIM, AND HE'S NOT RELATED TO THE INCIDENT...!

... EVEN GRANDFATHER ..

I'D NOT LIKE TO THINK THAT THERE'S A PERSON AMONG US WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SUCH DREADFUL THING...!

I DON'T WANT TO SUSPECT ANYONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE ...!!

...
I AGREE WITH BATTLER
...

IT'S MEANINGLESS TO KEEP INSULTING EACH OTHER
...

...
BATTLER
..

...
I GUESS SO... LET US ALL RELAX AS MUCH AS WE CAN...

IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE IS GATHERED HERE SINCE MORNING, THE WHOLE TIME, WHICH OUR STRESS IS PILING UP...

...EVA, SHOULDN'T WE COOL DOWN OUR HEADS TOO...?

YOU'RE RIGHT... I WAS ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY JUST BECAUSE OF THAT RECEIPT

CERTAINLY IT'S NOT FAIR TO SUSPECT OF ONLY NATSUHI NEE-SAN...

IF I REMEMBER, YESTERDAY, NEE-SAN HAD PREPARED GUEST ROOMS FOR US IN THE MANSION AS WELL, SO THAT WE WOULDN'T NEED TO GO BACK TO THE GUEST HOUSE, RIGHT?

I GUESS IT'D BE BETTER THAT NATSUHI NEE-SAN AND I DO NOT STAY LOOKING AT EACH OTHER'S FACE ANYMORE.

EVA OBA -SAN ...?

THERE, WE HAVE BATHROOM, TOILET AND A BED WHERE WE CAN LIE DOWN.

COULD YOU CALL US WHEN IT IS TIME FOR DINNER?

UNTIL THEN, WE WILL SHUT OURSELVES IN THE GUEST ROOM, WITH LOCK AND CHAIN.

...
YOU CAN DO AS YOU WISH...

NEE-SAN, PLEASE, CAN YOU KEEP AN EYE ON EVERYONE, RIGHT?

AND DO NOT FORGET YOU ARE BEING OBSERVED AS WELL.

GENJI, KANON, ESCORT THEM TO THEIR GUEST ROOM.

..
PLEASE, BE CAREFUL AS WELL.

MO...
MOM!

WHEN IT COMES TO SELF-DEFENSE, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ...BUT MIND YOUR BUSINESS.

THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED TO BE ESCORTED, I DON'T NEED WOLVES ESCORTING ME.

GEORGE, WE'RE GOING.

EVA KNOWS KARATE, TAE-KWON-DO ... AND ALL THESE MARTIAL ARTS, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT US.

SORRY FOR HER BAD MANNERS, NATSUHI NEE-SAN.

...I KNEW IT, EVA OBA-SAN STILL THINKS THE CRIMINAL IS IN THIS ROOM.

GEORGE ..!

... GEORGE IS ALREADY A FULL-FLEDGED MAN.

HE HAS HIS OWN SENSE OF JUSTICE.. LET HIM DO AS HE WISHES...

I DON'T BELIEVE THE CRIMINAL IS SOMEONE OF THE FAMILY.

TO LEAVE THIS ROOM IS THE SAME AS TO SUSPECT SOMEONE OF THE FAMILY.

I'LL STAY HERE WITH EVERYONE.

THANK YOU, DAD...

... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

YOU GUYS ARE FREE TO BELIEVE IN THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS, YOU KNOW?

AT LEAST THE STORY OF THE RECEIPT IS TRUE, YOU HEAR?

AS FOR WHAT THIS MEANS... TRY AND THINK BETTER ABOUT IT ONCE MORE, ALRIGHT...?

THE LETTER, THE MURDERS, EVERYTHING WAS BEATRICE'S DOING.

...NOW I BELIEVE IT, MARIA.

OTHERWISE, WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP ON SUSPECTING EACH OTHER FOREVER, SOMEONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE..

IN THIS CASE IT'S BETTER TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF A 19TH PERSON...

IT MUST BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR BEATRICE TO TAKE GRAND-FATHER OUTSIDE WITHOUT OPENING THE DOOR OR THE WINDOWS, RIGHT ...?

THE SAME GOES FOR GRAND-FATHER'S DISAPPEA-RANCE...

TO HER, EVEN IF THE PERSON IS SECLUDED IN WHATEVER KIND OF CLOSED ROOM, IT'S NOT HARD TO TAKE THEM OUT, YOU KNOW?

BEATRICE IS WELL VERSED ABOUT THE 72 DEMONS.

GAAP, THE 33TH RANKED, GRANTS HER THE POWER TO TRANSPORT THE PERSON SHE WANTS TO THE PLACE SHE WANTS INSTANTLY.

...THAT'S RIGHT

BEFORE A WITCH, DOOR LOCKS ARE USELESS.

...WITCHES ARE AMAZING, HUH...

KIHIHIHI

ALRIGHT, WHEN WE MEET, I'LL TELL HER.

PLEASE, MAKE ME BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE WITCH...

...
SO PLEASE... IF SHE STILL INTENDS TO CAUSE MORE INCIDENTS, MAKE SURE IT IS DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN BEING...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

EVEN THOUGH I'D LIKE THAT THERE WERE SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE 18 PEOPLE, I CANNOT ADMIT SUCH 19TH PERSON...

THE 19TH PERSON... THE WITCH, THERE'S NO WAY SHE EXISTS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THE CRIMINAL IS AMONG THE 18 PEOPLE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THIS MANSION IS ABOVE 18 AND BELOW 19...?

THERE CAN'T BE A FRACTIONAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE...

...NO, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN ONLY BE AN INTEGER.

THAT WITCH CAN'T BE SEEN.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BODY, SO SHE CAN'T BE SEEN.

SO, SINCE THE NOTATION FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN ONLY BE WRITTEN WITH INTEGERS, SHE CAN'T BE SEEN THERE.

KINI NINI NINI, BATTLER.

CAN'T YOU SEE BEATRICE?

19>X>18

INSIDE THIS X... DWELLS THE WITCH...?

...
STOP
IT.

THE MORE
I THINK,
THE LESS
I UNDER-
STAND.

WHEN
TOMORROW
COMES...

THE TYPHOON
WILL PASS AND
THE BUSTLING
SEAGULLS
WILL RETURN
TO THE
HARBOR.

AND THEN,
THE POLICE
WILL CAPTURE
THE CULPRIT
...

EVEN IF
I DON'T
THINK
ABOUT IT,
TOMORROW,
THE CASE
WILL BE
SETTLED
ANYWAY.

WHEN THE SEA-GULLS CRY

CLACK

YES

EVEN IF WE DON'T DO ANY-THING, CER-TAINLY EVERY-THING SHOULD BE SOLVED

2月21日(土)発売4月号につづく

AFTER HER DISPUTE WITH NATSUHI-OBASAN, EVA-OBASAN LEFT THE PARLOR WITH HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN

WITH HER SUSPICIONS OF NATSUHI -OBASAN YET TO BE CLEARED.

BEATRICE ...

WE HAVE TO TRY OUR BEST TO REFRAIN FROM DOUBTING ONE ANOTHER...

IF YOU STILL INTEND TO CAUSE MORE TROUBLE... DO SOMETHING THAT A HUMAN ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT HAVE DONE AND I'LL BELIEVE THAT THE 19TH PERSON... THAT THE WITCH ACTUALLY EXISTS...

IS THE CULPRIT A HUMAN OR A WITCH?

...KIHIHI. IF YOU MEET HER, THEN I'LL TELL YOU IN ADVANCE.

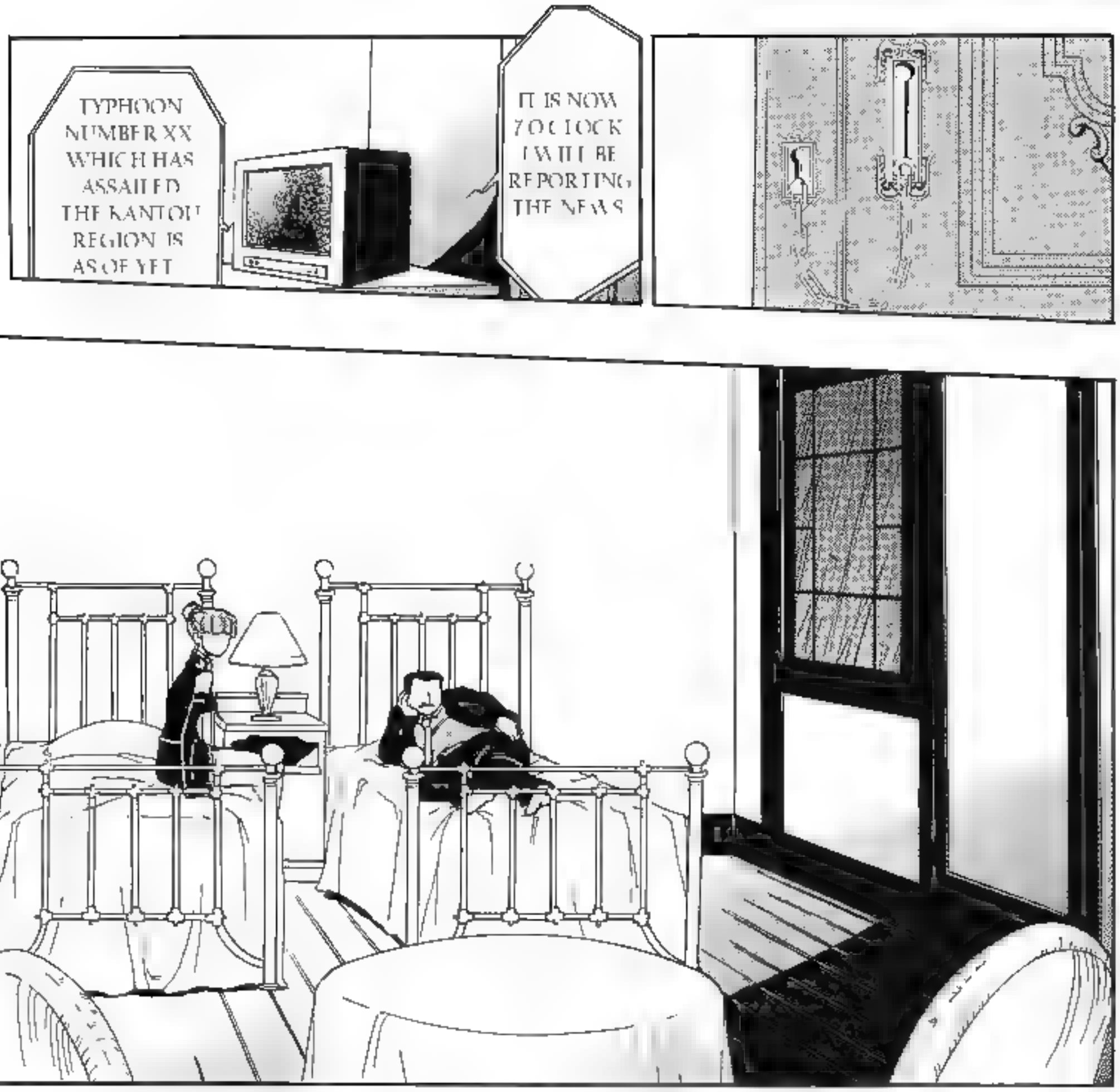
CHAPTER IV
THE SECOND NIGHT

THE REAL MARIA

WHICH ONE IS IT---?

うたかたの女(ひと)

原作・監修：竜崎士07
作画：夏海ケイ


TYPHOON NUMBER XX WHICH HAS ASSAILED THE KANTOU REGION IS AS OF YET
IT IS NOW 7 O'CLOCK I WILL BE REPORTING THE NEWS

IT WAS QUITE PRESUMPTIOUS OF NATSUHI-NEESAN TO TELL US NOT TO LEAVE THE PARLOR. SHE WAS SO ARROGANT AND RESOLVED; NO ONE COULD HAVE TALKED BACK.
... AS I THOUGHT, IT'S RELAXING WHEN IT'S JUST THE FAMILY. IT'D BEEN FINE IF EVERYONE JUST SECLUDED THEMSELVES IN THEIR GUEST ROOMS AND LOCKED THE DOORS.

SHE'S SO IMPUDENT, IT MUST BE SO.

THAT PERSON'S BEEN GETTING THE COLD TREATMENT, SO WHEN KRAUSS-NIISAN DIED, SHE WAS HAPPY THAT SHE WOULD FINALLY GET TO BE ON TOP.

NATSUHI-SAN HAS BEEN DOING HER BEST BECAUSE OF THAT, SO ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT EVEN IF SHE PICKS A FIGHT?

BUUUT... IF I DIDN'T SAY IT THEN, THEN IT'D NEVER BE THE RIGHT TIME TO MENTION IT ...

AND THAT INCIDENT WITH THE RECEIPT... THAT WAS SAYING TOO MUCH.

.....
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE BEEN TOGE-THER LIKE THIS WITH JUST THE TWO OF US...

IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH AGING, HUH?

EVER SINCE GEORGE WAS BORN, JUST ABOUT EVERY-THING HAS GONE BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

TRUE... I WONDER IF WE WERE TOO IMPATIENT IN GETTING A CHILD.

...
HEY, DEAR.

...
DO YOU REGRET MARRYING ME...?

...WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
ALL OF A SUDDEN...

HE WOULD BOAST ABOUT HOW HE'D BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SOON.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO GET BACK AT HIM.

..I

I'VE HATED KRAUSS FROM WAY BACK THEN.

HE WAS POMPOUS AND PRESUMPTIOUS.

BUT EVEN SIX YEARS AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE, NATSUHI-NEESAN HAD NOT CONCEIVED YET ...

AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY, NII-SAN WOULD FATHER THE NEXT SUCCESSOR.

IF YOU CAN GIVE BIRTH TO A SUCCESSOR TO THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY FIRST,

THEN WOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY...?

EVA USHI-ROMIYA ...

I THOUGHT IT WAS A ONE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE.

WHEN YOU MARRIED ME, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T FUSS OVER OUR SURNAME.

WOULDN'T THAT BE THE ULTIMATE REVENGE AGAINST KRAUSS...?

HE AGREED TO ADOPT YOU, HIS SON-IN-LAW ...

WE CHOSE A TIME WHEN FATHER WAS GETTING MORE AND MORE DISSATISFIED WITH NATUSHI -ONEESAN AND APPROACHED HIM WITH A PROPOSA- ...

SOON, GEORGE WAS BORN.

BUT... THAT'S WHY I WON'T FORGIVE HOW SOME SERVANT MANAGED TO CAPTURE HIS HEART...!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I THINK IT'S BETTER THAT SHANNON-CHAN DIED...!

AND AS EXPECTED, GEORGE GREW UP TO BE A WONDERFUL ADULT.

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY WANTED GEORGE TO BECOME THE SUCCESSOR TO THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, SO HE WAS GIVEN A SOLITARY UPBRINGING ..

...
I'M
...
THE WORST
...

IF THAT WAS ALL THEN IT'D STILL BE ALL RIGHT!

BUT IN THE END IT SHAPED A GOOD DEAL OF MY LIFE

WANTING TO TRIUMPH OVER KRAUSS-N'SAN WAS SOMETHING I FELT EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD YOU KNOW ?

BUT THOSE FEELINGS DRAGGED YOU AND GEORGE INTO MY OWN AFFAIRS...

IT ENDED UP AFFECTING YOU BOTH ...!

BUT YOU KNOW, I'VE YET TO HAVE ANY REGRETS IN MY LIFE.

.....
YOU KNOW, MY LIFE HAS BEEN HECTIC SINCE LONG AGO

THE USHIROMIYA HOUSEHOLD TAUGHT ME THE WARMTH OF A FAMILY ONCE MORE.

I THINK OF IT AS MY ONLY FAMILY.

I'VE LOST MY RELATIVES IN A WAR, SO WHEN YOU PROPOSED THE IDEA OF ME BEING ADOPTED INTO YOUR FAMILY,

I WAS HAPPY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A FAMILY AGAIN.

WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE HAS BECOME ENJOYABLE, SOMETHING THAT OTHER MEN CAN NEVER TASTE.

WE LIVED A REALLY ENJOYABLE LIFE UP UNTIL TODAY.

IN THE LIFE THAT WE'VE WALKED TOGETHER, THERE HASN'T BEEN AAANY POINTLESS THINGS AT ALL.

..YOUR HAND IS ALWAYS KIND AND WARM..

WHY, EVA

WHEN THE NEW YEAR COMES ALONG, LET'S SLOWLY ENJOY OURSELVES IN MORUJIBU!

THE TWO OF US DON'T EVEN NEED WATER! WE'LL JUST CONTINUE LIVING LIKE NEWLYWEDS!

THANK YOU, DEAR..

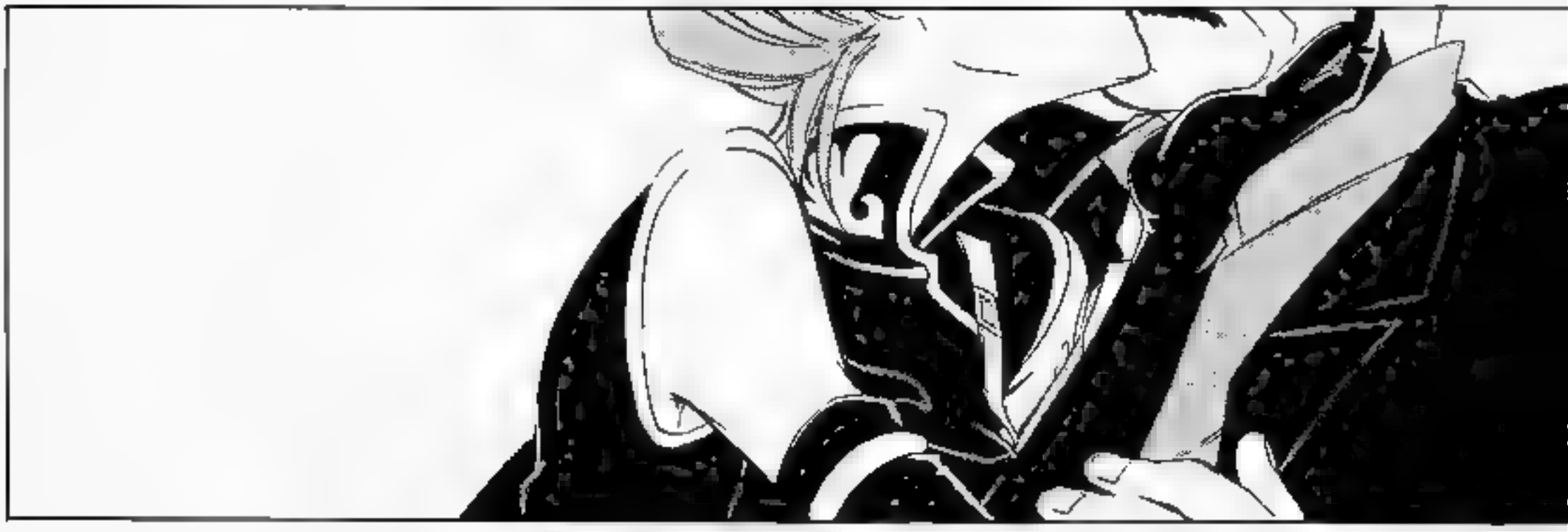
I'M SO GLAD... WE'RE TOGETHER.

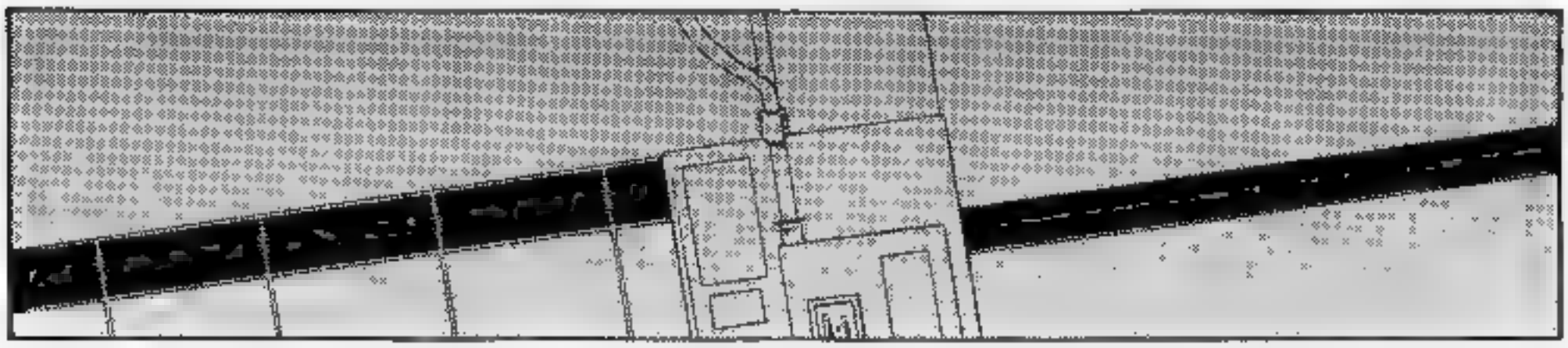
...

RIGHT NOW... IS FINE...

... NO ... IT'S FINE ..

AFTER I RETIRE FROM MY JOB, WE'LL GO RIGHT AWAY! GOING BEFORE NEW YEAR'S EVE IS...





WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH EVA-SAMA AND HIDEYOSHI -SAMA'S PORTIONS?
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE BROUGHT DINNER TO THE PARLOR AGAIN?

...
GENJI-SAN, PLEASE SOMEHOW TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

カリ

LET'S CONFIRM WITH THE MADAM.

NANJOL -SENSEI. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY LEAVE

...I'M SCARED

SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND KINZOU-SAN IS MISSING...

I FEEL LIKE ANOTHER BAD INCIDENT IS GOING TO OCCUR TONIGHT AS WELL.

EVERYTHING IS A GAME ARRANGED BY KINGJU-SAN

YOU CAN THINK OF US ALL AS EQUAL PIECES ON A BOARD.

.THOUGH THEY'LL PROBABLY REFUSE.

PLEASE SERVE DINNER HERE.

THEN ASK EVA-SAN AND HIDEYOSHI-SAN TO AT LEAST DINE TOGETHER WITH US.

PLEASE HAVE KANON ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE GUEST ROOM.

GENJI, DON'T BE CARELESS ENOUGH TO BE ALONE WITHOUT ANY GOOD REASON

Tut Tut Tut!

EVA -SAMA, HIDEYOSHI -SAMA, DINNER HAS BEEN PREPARED.

.....?

.....
GENJI
-SAMA

THIS
IS...

THIS IS THE MASTER'S SEAL AND ENVELOPE.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

PERHAPS... THE SENDER IS... IT CAN'T BE.....!

.....

ドク

ドクン...

THE ROOM MAY BE EMPTY...

.. I BELIEVE I HEAR THE SOUND OF THE TELEVISION.

BUT I DON'T FEEL ANY SIGN OF HUMANS.

ARE YOU STILL IN YOUR ROOM!? EVA-SAMA!!

THIS IS GENJI!

EVA-SAMA!! PLEASE ANSWER!!

ﾅｲﾅｲ

BUT THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS POSSIBLE AS WELL ...!

GENJI -SAMA !?

ﾌｯ...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT EVA-SAMA HAS MERELY LEFT THE ROOM ...!

IF THAT WERE TRUE,

THEN IT'S GOOD.

PARDON ME FOR ENTERING YOUR ROOM ...

I'LL BE BACK

CHAIN ...!?

CLING

CLING

EVEN THOUGH IT CAN'T BE LOCKED IF NO ONE WAS IN THE ROOM!?

THE CHAIN ON THE DOOR IS IN USE!?

THAT ROOM IS STRANGE

I HAVE CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT ANYTHING HAS OCCURRED

HURRY

EVERY MINUTE, EVERY SECOND COUNTS! I HAVE TO OPEN THAT DOOR AS FAST AS I CAN...!

----------PERHAPS

.....THEY'RE ALREADY.....

.....

AH...?

.....

PLEASE WAIT, KANON-SAN...

.....HI
...II

THAT WASN'T HERE BEFORE!!!

HI... HIIII...

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN 5 MINUTES SINCE GENJI AND I SPLIT FROM HERE EARLIER...!

Y- YOU'RE ... KIDDING ...

WHY DID SUCH A THING APPEAR OUT OF A SUDDEN?

SUCH A THING... WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT...!!?

HI...
III
III
...I
!!!!

HA

HA

THE SAME PAINT THAT WAS ON THE SHUTTER OF THE STOREHOUSE...!?

THEN... INSIDE..

IT CAN'T BE....

...IT CAN'T BE

•CLICK•

I CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND ANY FINGERPRINTS

IF THIS IS INDEED THE WORST CASE SCENARIO THEN THE POLICE WILL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THIS ROOM !!!

E...

EVA-SAMA
.....?

.....
.....
UU

.....!?

W-
WHERE'S
HIDEYOSHI-
SAMA...!?

...HI
..II

HIII

K-KANON-
SAN...?

HI III II ...!!

THE BATHROOM?

HU

UU... AH

UUA
...

AAAH
...!!!

THE TRAGEDY HAS HAPPENED
A SECOND TIME...
DON'T MISS THE
NEXT CHAPTER!!!

HAAAH..

AAH

AAAH!

A NEW TRAGEDY UNFOLDS BEFORE HIS EYES...

HE LEFT THE LETTER HERE ON PURPOSE, SO OF COURSE THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY FINGER-PRINTS ON IT!

IT'D BE BEST TO HAND IT OVER TO THE POLICE WITHOUT CARELESSLY TOUCHING IT.

THE CULPRIT MIGHT HAVE LEFT HIS FINGERPRINTS ON IT

THE SAME SCRIBBLES YET AGAIN ...!

WHAT'S THIS LETTER!? WHAT'S INSIDE?

Chapter 15 :
The Second Night (2)

...
E-

EVA
-SAN
...
!!!!

MADAM ...

HIDEYOSHI-SAMA IS OVER HERE AS WELL

...H-HIDEYOSHI-SAN AS WELL.....!?

NANJO SENSEI.

YES.

KANON, PLEASE TURN OFF THE SHOWER. THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH ONE SHOULD GO THROUGH ...!

...
POSTMORTEM LIVIDITY IS SHOWING... RIGOR MORTIS HAS BEGUN AS WELL.
MOST LIKELY IT'S BEEN ONE HOUR SINCE HE WAS MURDERED.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE PART WITHOUT A BLADE, IT SEEMS TO HAVE THE SHAPE OF A CONE... OR A THICK ICEPICK.

EVEN SO, IT'S AN EERIE... A GROTESQUE WEAPON...

BUT... TO HAVE STUCK A WEAPON WITH SUCH A SHORT SHAFT INTO ONE'S SKULL ...

I CAN'T FATHOM HOW...

Asmodeu

Asmodeu

Luxuria

A-AT ANY RATE... WE MUSTN'T LET THE CHILDREN SEE THIS ROOM... ESPECIALLY NOT GEORGE-KUN!

PLEASE CLOSE OFF THE ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...!

FATHER!! MOTHER!!!

GEORGE -KUN..

NO ...

YOU MUSTN'T ENTER !!!

NATSUHI -OBASAN! WHAT'S WITH ALL THE COMMOTION !?

HA HA HA HA

WHO?

WHO DID THIS ???

I'LL KILL HIM, I'LL KILL HIM!!!!

SFX: UWAAAH AAAAAAH...AAH...

GEORGE -KUN...

YOU BASTARD ... DO YOU LACK EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF HUMAN COMPASSION ...!?

CRUEL ...

THIS IS TOO CRUEL ...

SFX: AHAHA!!

.....

BATTLER ...

WELL, SURE... ANY PERSON WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SADNESS FROM BEREAVEMENT ...

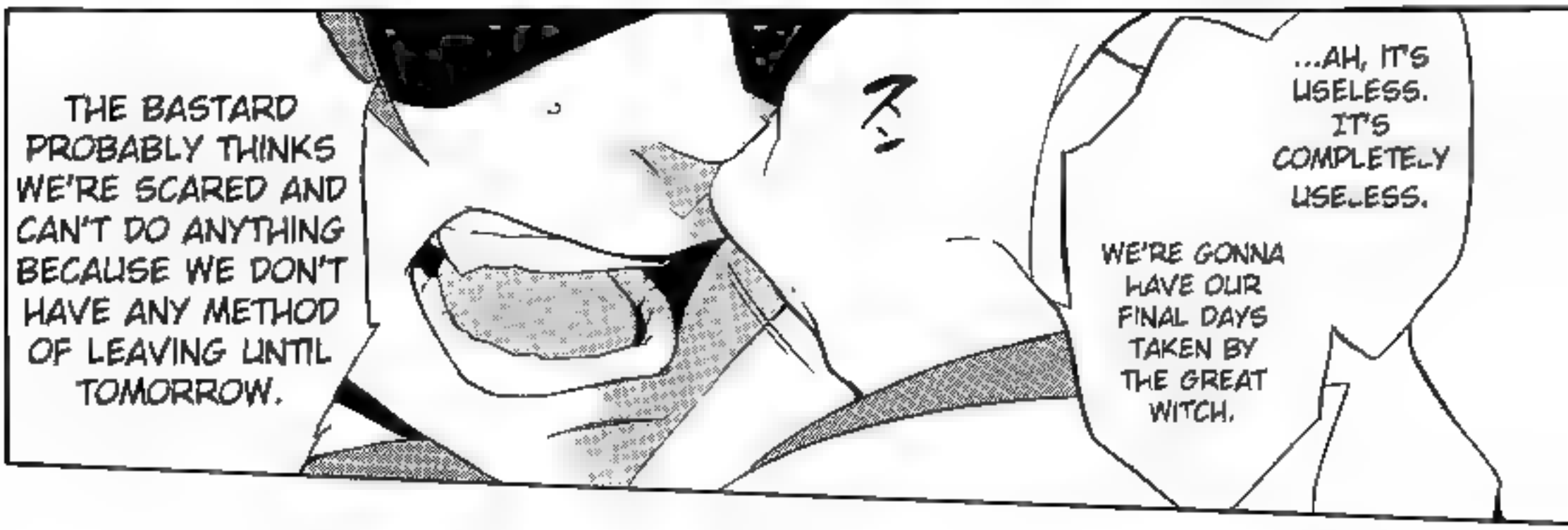
BUT YOU KNOW, THOSE THREE WERE THE FUTURE TO ANIKI. BESIDES, THEY WERE EACH SUPPOSED TO DIE BY TURNS...!!!

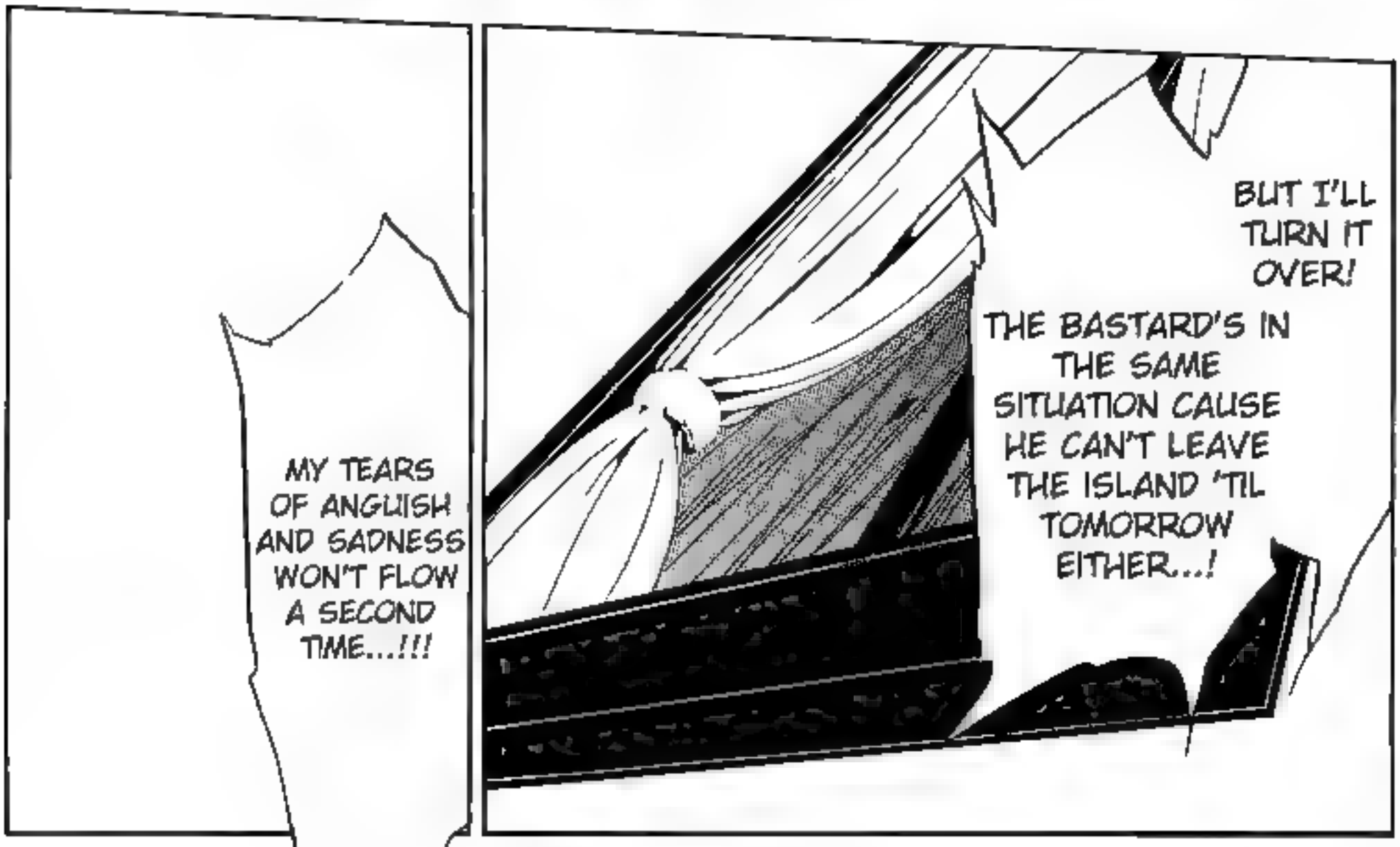
HE LOST THE WOMAN HE SET HIS HEART ON THE DAY AFTER HE GOT ENGAGED TO HER!

AND THE BASTARD EVEN WENT AS FAR AS TO MURDER HIS PARENTS ON THE EXACT SAME DAY...!!

ISN'T THAT JUST TOO CRUEL...!!!?

HU-
BATTLER
DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY.


THE BASTARD PROBABLY THINKS WE'RE SCARED AND CAN'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY METHOD OF LEAVING UNTIL TOMORROW.
...AH, IT'S USELESS. IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE OUR FINAL DAYS TAKEN BY THE GREAT WITCH.


MY TEARS OF ANGUISH AND SADNESS WON'T FLOW A SECOND TIME...!!!
BUT I'LL TURN IT OVER!
THE BASTARD'S IN THE SAME SITUATION CAUSE HE CAN'T LEAVE THE ISLAND 'TIL TOMORROW EITHER...!

I'LL DEFINITELY CATCH HIM ...!!

SOMETIME TONIGHT, I'LL SEIZE HIM BY THE COLLAR ...!!!

BEFORE, I PICKED UP THIS LETTER, WHICH THE CULPRIT APPARENTLY DROPPED. LET US ALL EXAMINE ITS CONTENTS IN THE PARLOR.

...
WHAT'S WRONG, MARIA?

IT SMELLS, YOU KNOW?

HH- ...

YEAH ... IT SERIOUSLY STINKS ...

IT'S A DISGUSTING ODOR LIKE SOMETHING STRANGE BEING BURNT ...

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ... WHERE'S THE SMELL COMING FROM...?

...UGH ...

...HUH?

...AH, MARIA NOTICED IT TOO? WHAT THE HECK IS THIS SMELL .....

KANON, PLEASE GO WITH KUMASAWA.

SO THAT SHE WON'T BE BY HERSELF.

I'LL GO CHECK THE KITCHEN.

THE STOVE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROPERLY TURNED OFF...

KUMASAWA, PLEASE TURN ON THE VENTILATION FAN.

AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE SOURCE OF THE SMELL...

IT'S AN UNBEARABLE SMELL THAT ASSAULTS THE NOSE!

JUST WHAT IS IT...!!!?

...IF IT'S TO DISCUSS HOW TO FIND THE CULPRIT, THEN I DON'T MIND.

...
GEORGE -ANIKI...

DO YOU MIND IF WE TALK?

ABOUT EVA-OBASAN'S GUESTROOM ...

THE CHAIN WAS IN PLACE AND JUDGING FROM THE LAYOUT WE SAW BEFORE, IT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK FROM THE OUTSIDE ...

IN OTHER WORDS... IT WAS A CLOSED ROOM...!

AND BEING BOUND BY PHYSICAL LIMITS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER THE ROOM FROM THE OUTSIDE...

YES... OUT OF ALL THE METHODS TO LOCK A ROOM, USING THE CHAIN WOULD GENERALLY BE THE SIMPLEST WAY TO CREATE A CLOSED ROOM.

THEN IN OTHER WORDS... ARE YOU SAYING THAT... THE CULPRIT DIDN'T GO IN OR OUT OF THE DOOR...?

TH-

BUT, EVA-OBASAN AND HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN WERE KILLED IN THAT ROOM.

...HEH

HOW INTERESTING. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT DOORS SINCE THIS MORNING.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ...!?

?

THE CULPRIT TOOK THE KEY, WHICH WAS IN THE SERVANTS' ROOM... OR IF HE HAD DUPLICATED IT AND USED THE COPY, THEN IT WOULDN'T BE A CLOSED ROOM AT ALL.

THE FIRST TIME WAS WITH THE SHUTTER OF THE STOREHOUSE

AND IF WE ASSUME THAT IT WAS SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE KEY, THEN ALMOST EVERYONE WOULD SEEM SUSPICIOUS...

JUST AS I SAID BEFORE, IF GRANDFATHER USED SOME KIND OF DESPERATE TRICK... LIKE HIDING HIMSELF UNTIL THE RECEIPT WAS REMOVED, THEN IT'S POSSIBLE THAT CLOSED ROOM HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

NEXT IS THE DOOR THAT WAS SEALED BY A RECEIPT.

IF, LIKE IN EVA-OBASAN'S EXPLANATION, NATSUHI-OBASAN HAD PUSHED GRANDFATHER OUT OF THE WINDOW AND AFTER LOCKING IT, LEFT THE ROOM, THEN YOU CAN'T CALL IT A CLOSED ROOM...

EVEN IF WE SUSPECT NATSUHI OBASAN AGAIN,

...AS FOR THE DOOR THIS TIME.

JESSICA -CHAN ...

I BELIEVE MOM!!

MOM WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

THE WINDOW WAS ALSO LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE AND THE CORPSES WERE INSIDE THE ROOM AS WELL! IT'S A PERFECT CLOSED ROOM!!

THE GUEST ROOM WAS SEALED WITH THE CHAIN FROM THE INSIDE!

THE DOOR CHAIN PREVENTS HUMANS FROM ENTERING THE ROOM...!!

I CAN'T SUSPECT ANYONE ANYMORE...!

THIS TIME, I'M NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY IT'S TRULY A CLOSED ROOM.....!

IF THEY HAD KNOCKED AND THEN ATTACKED RIGHT WHEN THE PERSON INSIDE WAS LOOKING AT THEIR FACE THROUGH THE CRACK...!

YEAH... SINCE THERE'S A CHAIN, EVEN IF SOMEONE DIDN'T GO IN, THEY COULD STILL OPEN A SMALL CRACK...!

THEN DID THE CULPRIT COMMIT THE CRIME WITHOUT ENTERING THE ROOM...? FROM OUTSIDE OF THE ROOM, MAYBE WITH SOME METHOD, HE COULD HAVE...

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR... HUMANS TO ENTER...?

IF EVA-OBASAN'S CORPSE WAS RIGHT NEAR THE DOOR, THEN I'D THINK OF THAT AS WELL.

NAH, THAT'S TOO NAIVE.

BUT EVA-OBASAN WAS ON TOP OF THE BED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM

FURTHERMORE, HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN WAS IN THE BATHROOM!

YOU CAN'T SEE THE BODIES THROUGH THE GAP FROM THE CHAIN, AND YOU CAN'T STRETCH YOUR ARM THAT FAR EITHER...!!!

IT'S JUST COMPLETELY USELESS!!

!?

UU—

SATIS-FIED?

KIHI HIHI HIHI

BATTLER, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SUSPECT ANY OF YOUR RELATIVES, SO YOU WISHED THAT THE CULPRIT WAS BEATRICE, RIGHT.....?

GRANT

YOUR

WISH.

THAT'S WHY

BEATRICE

DECIDED

TO

AND, YET,

SHE DID "SOMETHING THAT A HUMAN ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT HAVE DONE,

YOU'RE SO SELFISH.

KIHI

KIHI

KIHI KIHI KIHI

O-OWW

YEAH, THANK YOU FOR GRANTING MY WISH. WHAT I DID JUST NOW WAS BOTH MY THANKS AS WELL AS DISCIPLINE ACTION FOR LAUGHING AT SUCH AN IMPRUDENT TIME.

BUT TELL ME

THOSE SUSPICIOUS SCRIBBLES ON THE DOOR TO EVA-OBASAN'S ROOM! WAS THAT ANOTHER MAGIC SQUARE?

I DON'T KNOW, SO I'LL LET YOU HAVE ALL THE CREDIT.

STOP COMPLAINING AND START EXPLAINING

!!!

O-OWW

KIHI HIHI

THAT ONE'S OUT TO BLACKMAIL SOMEONE IF ITS OPTIONAL SHAPE, OR YOU SHOULD BE LIGHT SOME KIND OF FIRE THAT.

WHAT ARE BENEFITS IN USING THAT MAGIC SQUARE?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF IT!!?

UU— YOU SPECIAL MAN

IF YOU'RE THIS ILL-TEMPERED, THEN I WON'T TELL YOU YOU KNOW?

...THAT'S THE FIRST MAGIC SQUARE OF THE MOON.

?.

THERE ARE TWO BENEFITS TO THIS MAGIC SQUARE.

FIRST, IT CAN OPEN ANY DOOR, NO MATTER WHAT METHOD WAS USED TO SHUT IT.

"FOR HE BREAKS DOWN GATES OF BRONZE AND CUTS THOUGH BARS OF IRON"

THE WORDS WRITTEN DOWN IS PSALMS 107:16 FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE

KIHIHIHI BEATO'S PROVOKING YOU, YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN USE IT IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AND IT'LL GRANT YOU A SOLUTION.

THE OTHER BENEFIT IS, IN A SITUATION WHERE ALL DOORS ARE CLOSED, YOU CAN CHOOSE AN UNOPENABLE DOOR AND BE ABLE TO OPEN IT.

I SEE... IN OTHER WORDS, THIS STRENGTHENS THE THEORY THAT THE GREAT WITCH EXISTS, SINCE YOU NEED MAGIC IN ORDER TO GET PASS THAT UNOPENABLE DOOR, EH...!?

O-OWW

SFX KIHIHI HIHIHI

"DOES A HUMAN LIKE BATTLER UNDERSTAND HOW TO OPEN THIS DOOR?"!

ALL RIGHT, BE QUIET ALREADY. GOOD JOB!

EXCELLENT, I'LL TAKE ON THAT WITCH'S CHALLENGE!

...BUT...HOW CAN YOU... TO THE TWO PEOPLE INSIDE THE ROOM, THROUGH A GAP THAT'S 10CM AT MOST...

USE-LESS

KIHI HIHI HIHI

IT'S USE-LESS.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU GUYS WOULD UNDERSTAND

KIHI HIHI HIHI HIHI

USE-LESS!

BUT REGARDLESS OF WHICH, IT'S DEFINITELY A HUMAN...!

I DON'T KNOW IF THE PERSON THAT KILLED MY PARENTS WAS SOMEONE WE KNOW OF OR SOMEONE WE DON'T KNOW OF...

...MARIA-CHAN. WITCHES AND DEVILS DON'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD.

HAH?

HURRY UP AND RECOGNIZE IT! MARIA'S BEEN SAYING THIS CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE BEGINNING, YOU KNOW...?

IT'S USELESS! IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS! KIHIHIHI HIHIHIHI

HI HI HI

KI
HI
UGH!

UNDERGROUND ...BOILER ROOM...

KANON-SAN ...THAT'S THE...

THE BOILER ROOM IS PROBABLY A MESS AS WELL...

IT'S A HORRIBLE SMELL...

...WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!?

THE SOUND OF A DOOR BEING CLOSED!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!!

.....EH?

...SO
...SO!!

JUST NOW, EVERYONE WAS ASSEMBLED IN EVA-SAMA'S GUEST ROOM!

RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT, THERE ISN'T ANY HUMAN THAT CAN BE IN THE BOILER ROOM...!!!

HI...

HIIII...!

THE MAIN DOORS TO THE ROLLER ROOM ARE ON THE MANSION AND ONE TO THE COURTYARD.

WHATEVER SHUT THE DOORS INSIDE THE ROLLER ROOM RIGHT NOW

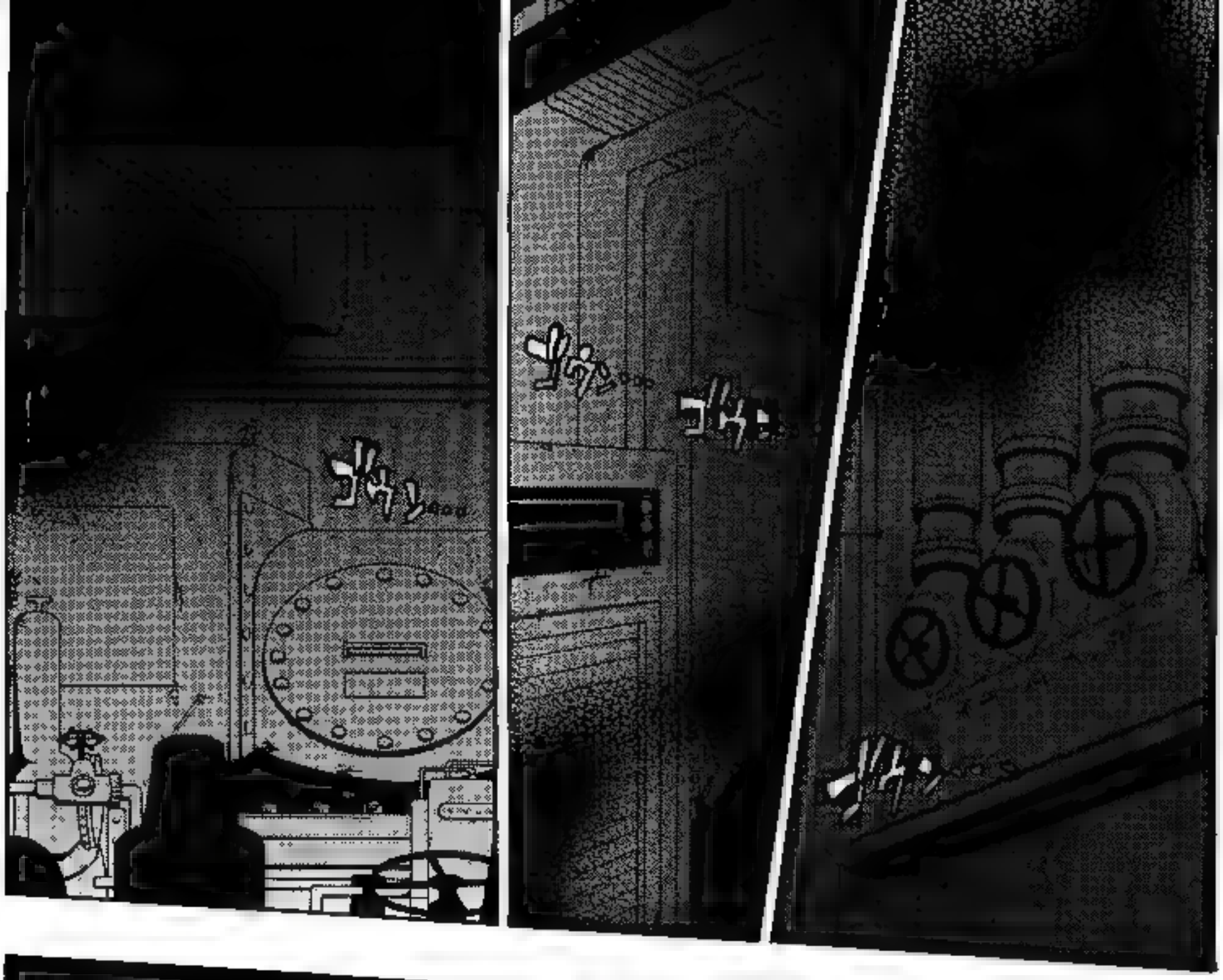
THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE COURTYARD. THEN, WE CLOSE HIM COMPLETELY

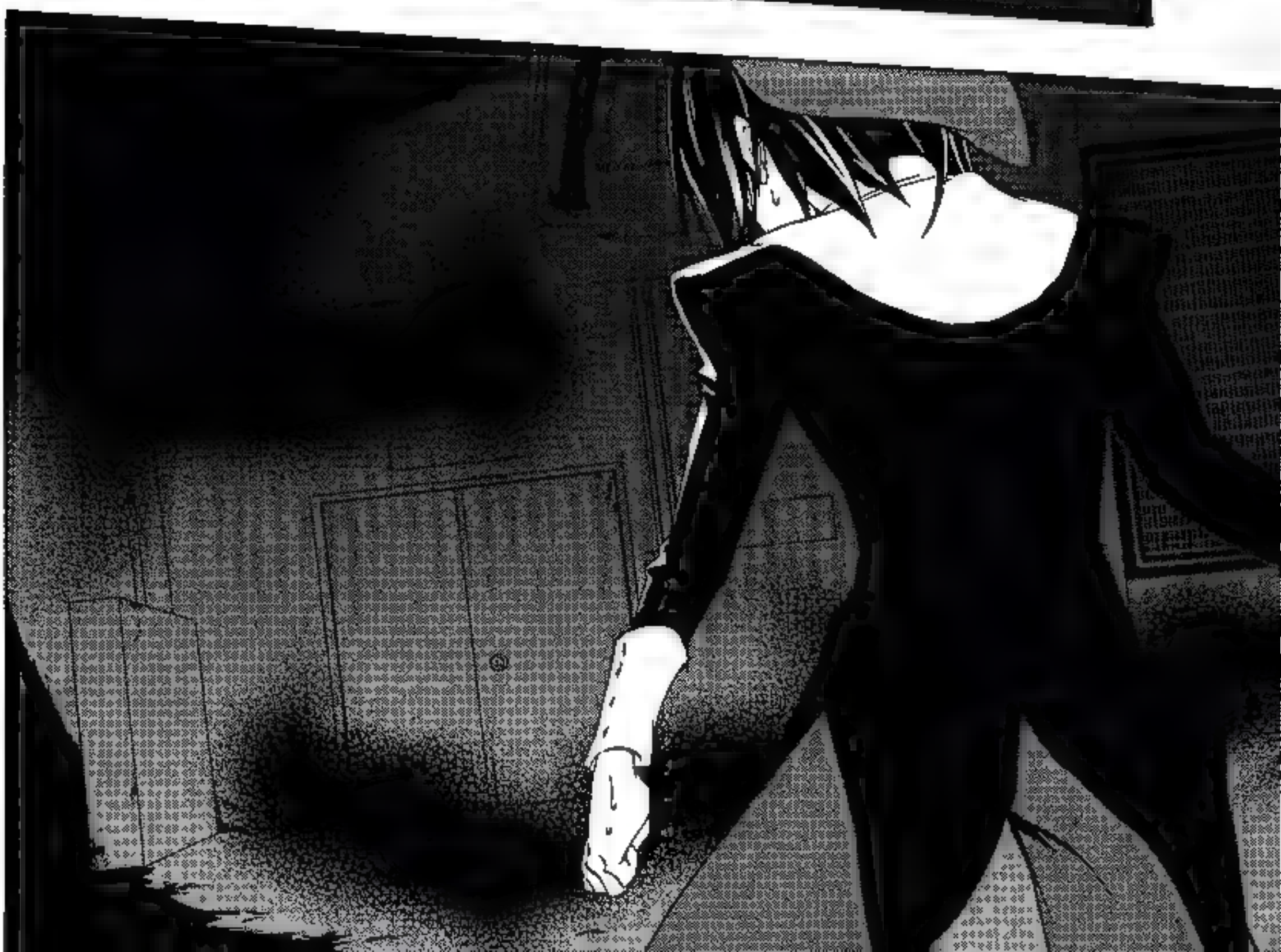
YOU MUSTN'T

GO AHEAD BY YOURSELF ...!!

K-

KANON-SAN





...YOU'RE OVER THERE, RIGHT?

... I WON'T BE DELUDED BY YOUR WORDS ANYMORE.....

BEATRICE
...!

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE WITCH, BEATRICE!?

月刊ガンガンJOKER 創刊号につづく

KIHI HIHI HIHI

DIDN'T BEATRICE DO SOMETHING "IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN" TO GRANT YOU YOUR WISH!?

YOU STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IN BEATRICE BATTLER?

ETERNAL TORTURE WILL CONTINUE... UNTIL YOU BELIEVE IN THE WITCH.....

O-UCH!

THIS IS A WORLD OF HUMANS MARIA!

WITCHES AND MAGIC! THEY DON'T EXIST!

THAT'S RIGHT... IT CAN ALL BE EXPLAINED BY HUMANS AND TRICKS...!

A SUCCESSION OF VERY BAFFLING INCIDENTS OCCURED ON THIS ISLAND.

... CERTAINLY ... AFTER LAST NIGHT'S PERPLEXING LETTER ARRIVED HERE...

...YOU'RE STUBBORN, BATTLER.

EVEN THOUGH BEATRICE "EXISTS."

THE APPEARANCE OF THE MAGIC CIRCLES ...

AND HOW THE MURDERER COULD HAVE COMMITED THE CRIME EVEN WITHIN A PERFECT CLOSED ROOM SEALED BY A DOOR CHAIN...

THE UNTHINKABLE MURDER OF 6 PEOPLE BY ANOTHER CONSCIOUS HUMAN'S DEED,

GRANDFATHER'S MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE,

THE 19TH PERSON... IF I DENY THE WITCH THEN I CAN'T SAY THAT THE CULPRIT ISN'T AMONG THE RELATIVES...!

FURTHERMORE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO COME IN OR OUT OF ROKKENJIMA DUE TO THE TYPHOON.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE 18 OF US WHO GATHERED FOR THE FAMILY CONFERENCE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES HERE.

NOT INCLUDING THE 8 DEAD PEOPLE 10 REMAIN ...

SUCH A CONCLUSION EXISTS!! I DON'T WANNA THINK THAT THE CULPRIT COULD BE ONE OF US...!!

COULD THE MURDERER WHO WAS CAPABALE OF SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS BE LURKING AMONG THEM...!?

DAMN IT... MY THINKING'S GETTING SCREWED UP...!

I DON'T WANT TO SUSPECT MY RELATIVES ...!

BUT WITCHES AND MAGIC CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST...!!

IT SEEMS AS IF THE STENCH FROM BEFORE IS COMING FROM DOWN THERE.

BATTLER -KUN!

WHAT A SMELL ...

UGH.

CHAPTER 16
(KANON VS BEATRICE)

...THE UNDER-GROUND BOILER ROOM.

WHERE DOES THIS STAIRWELL LEAD TO?

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Episode 1 : Legend of the golden witch

原作・監修：竜騎士07
作画：夏海ケイ

--IN ROULETTE ...

YOU BET ON EITHER NUMBERS OR THE COLORS RED AND BLACK TO VIE FOR A SHARE OF THE WINNINGS...

IN A LOW-RISK BET THE PAYOFF ISN'T MUCH BUT...

IF YOU DO THE OPPOSITE AND WAGER ON A LOW-CHANCE OUTCOME YOU CAN EARN A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE EARNINGS.

WHAT KIND OF "MAGIC" ARE YOU AND THE MASTER SEEKING BY CHALLENGING THE ROULETTE..? I DON'T HAVE AN INTEREST IN SUCH THINGS...

...THE MASTER CALLED BEING ABLE TO WIN AGAINST SUCH AN ASTRONOMICAL RISK A "MIRACLE."

HE CALLED THE RESULT OF HITTING AN ASTRONOMICAL PAYOFF "MAGIC"

...

IN ROULETTE THERE IS A SPECIAL SPACE CALLED "0" THAT WILL COMPLETELY WASH AWAY ALL THE COINS WAGERED ON THE BOARD.

HOWEVER YOU'RE FORGETTING ...

THERE'S SOMETHING BESIDES RED AND BLACK ON THE ROULETTE.

...
I DECIDED IN MY HEART JUST ONCE
...

...
THAT IF SHANNON WERE KILLED AND THAT I WERE TO SURVIVE
...

I WOULD SACRIFICE MY BODY AND BRING YOUR ROULETTE TO NOTHING ...!!!

I'M NO LONGER FURNITURE..!

I'M THE ZERO... IN YOUR ROULETTE ...!!

THIS IS THE END OF THIS DEMONIC ROULETTE ...!
...I'M NOT... GOING TO BE CONFUSED BY YOUR WORDS ANY LONGER ...

...GO WAIT IN HELL FOR A THOUSAND YEARS FOR ANOTHER SUMMONER!

...GO

VVEEEC-RAEB!!!

THE PLEASURE ... OF ...!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE...

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SOME

HEY ...

HEY KANON -KUN !!?

WHAT IS IT KUMA- SAWA !!!?

ANSWER ME!

COME OUT QUIETLY !!

WHO IS IT HIDING OVER THERE !!!?

GENJI! GET DOCTOR NANJO OVER HERE!!!

A FLASH-LIGHT!

OBASAN, LET'S LIGHT THEM UP !!

CRAP!

THE COURTYARD

GENJI ! WHERE DOES THAT DOOR GO. ?

THINK I'LL LET YOU ES-CAPE, YOU BAS-TARD !!!?

DAMN IT!

HANG IN THERE KANON-KUN!!

KANON-KUN!

ピピピピピ…

EVA -OBASAN, HIDEYOSHI -OJISAN AND KANON-KUN !?

DAMN IT!

YOU KILLED 6 PEOPLE! THAT WASN'T ENOUGH SO YOU KILLED 3 MORE!

DAMN IT!

WHY DID YOU KILL THEM!!?

STOP SCREWING AROUND! STOP SCREWING AROOOUND!!

WHO ARE YOU!?

DAMMIT!

WHAT'S YOUR GOAL!!!?

TCH!!

BATTLER-KUN, RUNNING AHEAD BY YOURSELF WAS..

.....

BATTLER-KUN ...?

THAT'S HOW IT IS... THE COURTYARD CAN'T BE ENTERED FROM OUTSIDE THE MANSION. THERE'S NO NEED FOR LOCKS TO PROTECT AGAINST CRIME.

BUT BECAUSE OF THIS I DON'T KNOW WHICH DOOR THE CULPRIT EXITED THROUGH...!!

...REGARDLESS— OF WHICH DOOR THEY'RE ALL UNLOCKED...

WHY DID YOU KILL THEM!?

YOU KNOW PEOPLE...WHEN THEY'RE KILLED THEY CAN'T COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN!!

WHY WOULD YOU KILL THEM!? WHY.....

WHY...!!

UWAAA
...

UU...

UWAA
...AA

.....
BATTLER-
KUN...

YOU ARE A
KIND CHILD
WHO
UNDERSTANDS
THE PAIN IN
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS...

I'LL
DEFINITELY
PROTECT YOU
ALL

...IT IS
ALRIGHT.

YOU,
GEORGE-KUN,
MARIA-CHAN AND
JESSICA...

AS A MOTHER...

AND AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY...!

NO MATTER HOW THE CULPRIT STRUGGLES HE CANNOT ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLAND.....!!

WHEN TOMORROW ARRIVES THE POLICE WILL COME...

...THAT'S THE WEAPON THAT WOUNDED KANON-KUN...

IT'S THE SAME AS THE THINGS STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF EVA-OBASAN AND HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN'S FOREHEADS...

I GET THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT ABOUT THE DEMONIC DESIGN OF THE HANDLE BUT...

"STAKES" I GUESS...

IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A DISTASTEFUL THING USED TO GOUGE A SACRIFICE'S HEART FOR A DEMONIC RITUAL...

THIS PART OF THE STAKE IS BRIGHT RED... MAKES SENSE SINCE IT WAS STUCK IN SO DEEP...

KANON-KUN...

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...THAT PERSON...?

GENJI-SAN ...

UGH
.....!!

THE STRENGTH OF THE FLAMES WAS NOT SEVERE

SO I BELIEVE THAT THE BODY HAS BEEN BURNING FOR QUITE A WHILE AND THAT THE SMELL GRADUALLY DRIFTED OUTSIDE.

CORPSE...!

UBU...

GU... UH...

THAT STENCH FROM BEFORE SEEMS TO HAVE COME FROM THIS SCORCHED BODY IN THE INCINERATOR...

GAH

THAT AWFUL STENCH FROM BEFORE WAS THE SMELL OF A CHARRED CORPSE.....!?

FURTHER-MORE...

AVARICE

"WHO" IS IT...?
WITH THAT STAKE STUCK IN HIS HEAD HE WAS KILLED AND BURNED.....?
WHO IS THIS TRAGIC CORPSE...!?

THAT THING STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREHEAD IS...
ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DEMONIC STAKES...

I CONCUR...

TO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN SUCH A MANNER... IS TOO HEARTRENDING...

I BELIEVE... IT IS THE MASTER.

THE CORPSE THAT APPEARED NOW CAN ONLY BE THE MASTER'S.

BUT... DO WE HAVE ANY GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS REALLY GRANDFATHER...? THE BODY'S BURNT BLACK...

BATTLER-KUN. TAKE A LOOK AT THE FEET.

NOTICE THAT THERE ARE 6 DIGITS ON BOTH FEET.

...AH...

"POLYDAC-TYLY..." UMM...

SO HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT DURING DEVELOPMENT A SINGLE DIGIT UNEXPECTEDLY SPLITS TO BECOME TWO...

IT SEEMS THAT HISTORICALLY INDIVIDUALS WITH POLYDACTYLY HAVE BEEN COMMON IN THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY.

...IT'S MOST LIKELY HEREDITARY.

FROM THE TIME THAT THE MASTER WAS BORN HE HAS HAD 6 TOES ON EACH FOOT.

IN SOME COUNTRIES, INDIVIDUALS WITH POLYDACTYLY ARE TREATED AND REVERED AS GODS...

I RECALL HEARING FROM HIDEYOSHI-OJISAN THAT TOYOTOMI HIDEYOHI ALSO HAD 6 FINGERS ON HIS HANDS.

MANY WITH POLYDACTYLY UNDERGO TREATMENT AT A HOSPITAL AT AROUND THE AGE OF ONE SO THAT THEY DON'T ATTRACT THE PUBLIC'S GAZE.
CONSIDERING THAT ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO THOUSAND BABIES IS BORN WITH THE CONDITION IT ISN'T THAT RARE.

NOTE: TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI WAS A DAIMYO WHO UNIFIED JAPAN AT THE END OF THE SENGOKU PERIOD

AFTER THE HEAD FAMILY PERISHED DURING THE GREAT KANTO EARTHQUAKE OF 1923 THE MASTER BORN WITH SUCH AN AUSPICOUS MARK WAS SEEN AS THE HOPE FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE HEAD FAMILY...

AND WAS CHOOSEN FROM THE BRANCH FAMILY AS THE NEW HEAD...

AMONG THE SUCCESIVE GENERATIONS OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY HEADS THE WISEST RULERS ALL POSSESSED POLYDACTYLY.

TO THAT END ON THE OCCASION OF FATHER'S BIRTH HE WAS HERALDED AS "THE RETURN OF THE WISE RULERS" BY HIS RELATIVES.

IN MYSTERY NOVELS IT IS COMMON TO BURN A CORPSE TO MAKE IT UNIDENTIFIABLE.

BUT IN GRANDFATHER'S CASE IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO HIDE THE EVIDENCE...

...I SEE...

SO THESE SIX TOES ARE EVIDENCE THAT IT'S REALLY GRANDFATHER...

...THE "RING OF THE HEAD" IS MISSING FROM HIS FINGER...

...IS IT JUST AS THE LETTER FROM LAST NIGHT SAID.....?

FURTHERMORE, AS AN OUTSET OF COLLECTION, I HAVE RECEIVED IN MY CUSTODY THE SYMBOL OF INHERITANCE, THE "RING OF THE HEAD OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY."

FATHER... IT IS TRULY REGRETFUL...

GENJI-SAN. IS THE BOILER ROOM USUALLY LOCKED?

ソタラ

...YES. NORMALLY IT IS KEPT LOCKED.

THIS ROOM IS AN IMPORTANT CRIME SCENE AS WELL. LOCK IT UP AND WE SHALL RETURN UPSTAIRS.

...I AM ALSO WORRIED ABOUT KANON'S CONDITION.

AND

IT LOOKS LIKE THE CULPRIT HAS SOMETHING LIKE A MASTER KEY IN HIS POSSESSION...

THE CULPRIT IS FREE TO MOVE AROUND INSIDE THE MANSION WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE LOCKED RIGOROUSLY...

NO ONE AMONG US WAS IN THE STATE TO ATTACK KANON-KUN.

IN OTHER WORDS THE CULPRIT IS A 19TH PERSON OUTSIDE OF US.

WITH THIS CASE CAN WE REALLY BE SURE THAT A 19TH PERSON EXISTS...?

NO...

IF THE GOAL WAS TO CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT A 19TH PERSON EXISTS

THEY HAVEN'T SHOWN THEMSELVES ONCE YET THE CULPRIT IS TRYING TO APPEAL TO THEIR EXISTANCE.

THEN WE WOULD COME TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS A RUSE AND THAT A 19TH PERSON COULDN'T POSSIBLY EXIST...!

LET'S TURN THE CHESS-BOARD OVER.

AS LONG AS THE 19TH PERSON DOES NOT APPEAR IN FRONT OF US...!

...WITH THAT SAID.....

FURTHERMORE I NOTICED EARLIER THAT NONE OF THE 8 COULD HAVE ATTACKED KANON-KUN...

IF THE CULPRIT IS AMONG THE 18 PEOPLE THEN THE SUSPECTS ARE LIMITED TO THE 8 REMAINING...!

OTHERWISE DID THEY USE A METHOD THAT I CAN'T IMAGINE TO PULL OFF A NOTHING SHORT OF IMPOSSIBLE MURDER...!?

IF NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE IT THEN DOES A 19TH PERSON EXIST AFTER ALL?

I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT COULD BE THE SAME WAY FOR THE OTHER BODIES...

EARLIER DIDN'T I DOUBT THAT THE REMAINS WERE TRULY GRANDFATHER'S...?

...NO WAIT.

WHAT IF WE ASSUME THAT THE CORPSES THAT LOST THEIR FACES AS

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どうやったら

こんなことになるんだよ

WHAT IF THE CULPRIT PREPARED A SUBSTITUTE BODY BEFOREHAND AND FAKED THEIR OWN DEATH...WHAT IF THEY HID SOMEWHERE AFTER COMMITTING THE CRIME...?

……

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE IN TO THE WITCH!!

BUT IT'S NOT AN IMPOSSIBLE TRICK...

...RIDICULOUS...

YOU TOO MARIA-CHAN. YOU MUST NOT KEEP STARING FIXEDLY ANY LONGER.

WELL WE ARE GOING BATTLER-KUN.

HEY MARIA.

WHAT'S BEATRICE AFTER?

IS IT ALL OF OUR LIVES?

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SAFE?

...HOW CAN YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT!?

WHY AREN'T YOU SCARED?

WHY DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN DANGER!?

...KI HIHI HIHI

BEATRICE WILL SOON REVIVE.

AT THAT TIME NONE SHALL BE LEFT ALIVE.

YOU KNOW OVER THERE... THERE ARE NO OBLIGATIONS. EVERYONE IS TOGETHER FOREVER.

IT'S A WONDEROUS PLACE WHERE EVERYONE ACTS KINDLY TO ONE ANOTHER FOR ALL ETERNITY...

BEATRICE PROMISED ME.

MARIA WILL BE TAKEN TO THE GOLDEN LAND.

.....

AND HASN'T DONE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS...

SHE HAS BEEN TOGETHER WITH US CONSTANTLY, ALWAYS HAS AN ALIBI

MARIA ADORES BEATRICE BUT

SO THERE IS NO 19TH PERSON .....

..... SUPPOSEDLY .....

WHAT THE HELL...KIND OF PERSON... IS MARIA...?

THE PURE AND OBEDIENT MARIA THAT I KNOW AND THE MARIA IN FRONT OF ME AREN'T RELATED...!

?!

BUT THEY CAN'T BE RELATED...

THAT TIME ...

WHO ARE THEY? THIS MARIA AND THE ONE CALLING HERSELF A WITCH...

IS SOON.

MARIA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

二号2話掲載!! 2ページ先へ!!!

WTDND
GROUP
Translation: Emiri, Turtleen, theace-frehley and Honya
Cleaning: Nabiki Asakura, Yuuko-san and Vandakiara
Typesetting:Nabiki asakura and paula_mink
proofreading: Alice<3Papilon
http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/